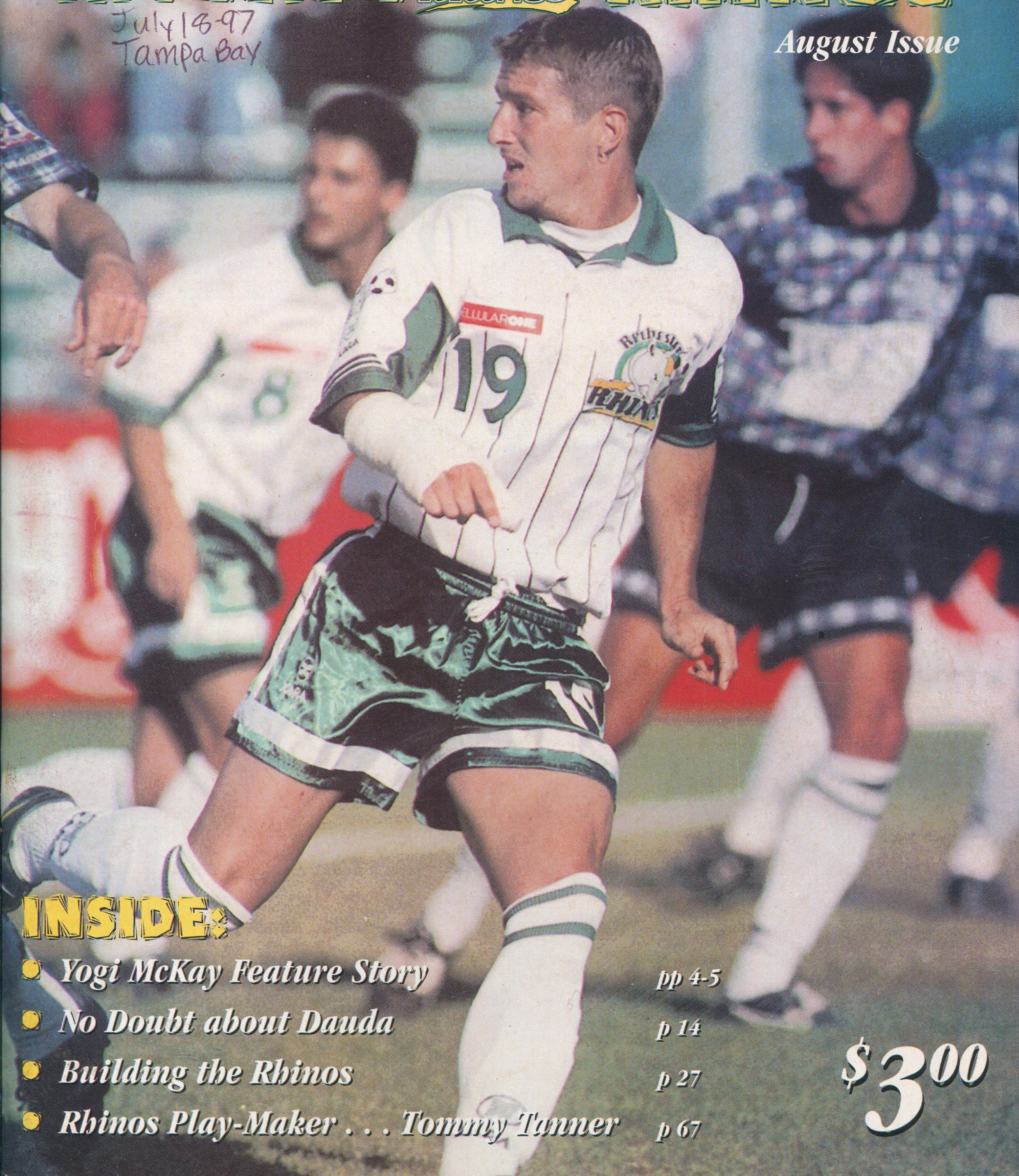
ROCHESTER RAGING RHINOS

July 18-97
Tampa Bay

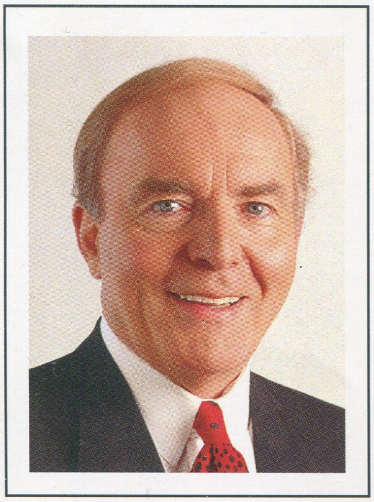
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Yogi McKay

BY MICHAEL SCHOPP



Photo by James Lathrop

Just a year before he scored a goal in his hometown team's first franchise victory, Yogi McKay was an out-of-shape salesman who said his pro soccer career was finished.

But reports of the death of this salesman were greatly exaggerated. McKay, an accomplished midfielder with high school, college and amateur ties to Rochester, had one more run left in him, as a local pro.

In 1995, Pat Ercoli, the Rhinos' coach, went out to gather a team, and he sought a player with pro experience and a link to Rochester to be his first signing. McKay fit the bill, almost; there was the small fact that he had retired from pro soccer. But Ercoli saw McKay excel with Team Lapine, a local team that reached the United States Amateur Cup final in 1995, and tried to talk him into becoming the first Rochester Rhino.

"He still had the stuff, but he was maybe 30 pounds overweight," Ercoli recalled. "He needed to motivate himself to try it again, if he was going to do that. Yogi saw it as an opportunity to show the Rochester community what he's been doing all this time."

McKay had been in soccer locally since his days in the Greece Little Guys Soccer Club, back in 1972. But not since 1985 — when he starred at Monroe Community College — had he made waves in Rochester.

And McKay, at age 30 content with his life away from pro soccer, didn't immediately catch Rhinos fever.

"When Pat called me, I said to him, 'I don't think you'll be able to pay me (enough) to make this worth my while'," McKay said. "I gave up a lot to come and play for the Rhinos. I took a pay cut to play here."

"But to play in your hometown, that's something that I really wanted to do."

Soon, McKay knew he would need to convince his wife, Aileen, that resuming his pro soccer career was vital to him. But it wouldn't be easy. The couple's marriage was not yet a year old, and their first child would arrive the following July.

"There was definitely concern," McKay said. "My wife, she's pretty shy; she likes to stay in the background of things. And I knew that playing is not an easy life, being on the road all the time. It's a single man's game."

"But you know, in life if you take a risk here and there, the reward can be much greater. To me, I thought of this as the thrill of a lifetime. And she has been very understanding."

Each time McKay puts on his Rhinos uniform, there is a new version of that thrill. From the night he scored the goal as Rochester beat Vancouver for its first win; to the night Frontier Field opened just five days after his son, Cameron, was born; to the Rhinos' appearances in U.S. Open Cup and A-League championship matches - there's always a bit of little Andrew McKay, playing in the city in which he learned about soccer and life.

Andrew McKay Sr. knows the feeling of playing soccer in Rochester, for he did so in the mid-1960s with the North American Soccer League's Rochester Lancers. McKay (pronounced Mick-EYE) moved to Boston from Scotland in 1958, and Yogi was born seven years later.

Yogi's first organized-sports experience was with the Charlotte Youth Baseball League. But McKay didn't exactly threaten Lou Gehrig's consecutive-games-played streak before trading in his stirrups for shinguards.

"Soccer was a lot more exciting than baseball for me," he said. "It's just a faster-moving game."

His skills were noticeable, even as an 8-year-old when he ran circles around house-league opponents. But McKay says that through high school there was usually a teammate who garnered most of the attention from opponents and scouts. For many years, that was John Pietak, who played with McKay in youth leagues, high school and college.

"He had a lot more physical ability than I did," said McKay, who measured 5-foot-5 and 130 pounds when he graduated from Greece Arcadia. "It seemed like I was always following in his footsteps. But his getting more of the attention inspired me to play harder. I never became complacent."

In 1983, Arcadia lost to Webster in the sectional playoffs. Webster coach Ralph Wager was about to leave his post for Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C. McKay said his size prohibited him from attracting many offers, but Wager saw McKay's potential and invited him to NAIA Catawba. (McKay grew three inches and added 20 pounds between high-school graduation and the start of his college freshman year.)

McKay had such an outstanding freshman season that, with his improved size, he harbored aspirations of transfering to an NCAA Division I school. He elected to head to MCC in hopes of becoming a junior-college transfer after his sophomore year.

But MCC discovered an ineligible player in its midst and was forced to forfeit its place in the regional finals, denying McKay an opportunity to show his stuff. For it's at the late playoffs that D-I coaches get the infrequent chance to scout the lower levels.

McKay chose to reattend Catawba, where he also played intercollegiate golf. He graduated in 1987 and by 1990 was playing for the Orlando Lions of the A-League. McKay's tenure in the league continued from 1991-93 with Ft. Lauderdale.

Four years in the A-League gave McKay an interesting perspective on the Rhinos' chances when Rochester started out in 1996.

"I knew how tough it would be," he said. "We had 15 guys who had never played together before. We went 1-and-5, well I knew we were gonna go 1-and-5."

The Rhinos made the in-season transition from Fauver Stadium to Frontier Field smoothly, and almost as smooth was their transition from cellar-dwellar to contender.

"The organization made some real good changes," said McKay, who played in 22 games last season. "We had a lot of guys with indoor experience. Well, outdoor and indoor are two different games. So we took the emphasis off our two indoor stars (Hector Marinaro and Zorin Karic). Then we brought in Henry Gutierrez and Lenin Steenkamp, two guys who were outdoor veterans. That's when it all changed.

"That's when we became 11 guys who would work hard and work together."

Now having been to the two finals, the Rhinos, in only their second season, are considered an A-League favorite. But this year's in-season changes have been disruptive in comparison, and the team went 6-and-7 after a 4-0 start.

"That's where Hector Marinaro deserves some credit," says McKay, of the long-time indoor star who elected to focus solely on indoor after one year with Rochester. "He had to adapt to being a role player, which he did brilliantly. We miss certain things about him. So far this year, it's been a struggle to get everybody on the same page."

The intuition of recognizing his role on a team, whatever it may be, is part of what makes McKay such an asset. With the 1997 Rhinos, his role, in his words, is:

"Go both ways, offense and defense, and work my (butt) off. We've got some real talented players, but on any team, you need a balance. I'm kind of in a defensive-midfield role; I tackle hard and defend hard."

"I think Yogi is indicative of this town," said McKay's teammate, Rhinos goalkeeper Billy Andracki. "He is a blue-collar worker. He gives you his heart. Whatever he may lack in talent, he more than makes up for it with his work rate."

McKay senses that.

"I think the people of Rochester have that mentality - work hard," he said. "They see me as a local kid, an extension of Rochester, and they say that they like what they see."

With almost half the A-League season, the U.S. Open Cup and the postseason still ahead, the Rhinos certainly have time and talent to assemble a championship squad.

"The expectations this year are obviously a lot higher," McKay said. "We've shown flashes of brilliance, but as a team, it hasn't clicked yet. Last year was such a dream season, it's tough to repeat such a season. You have to be more focused, more determined."

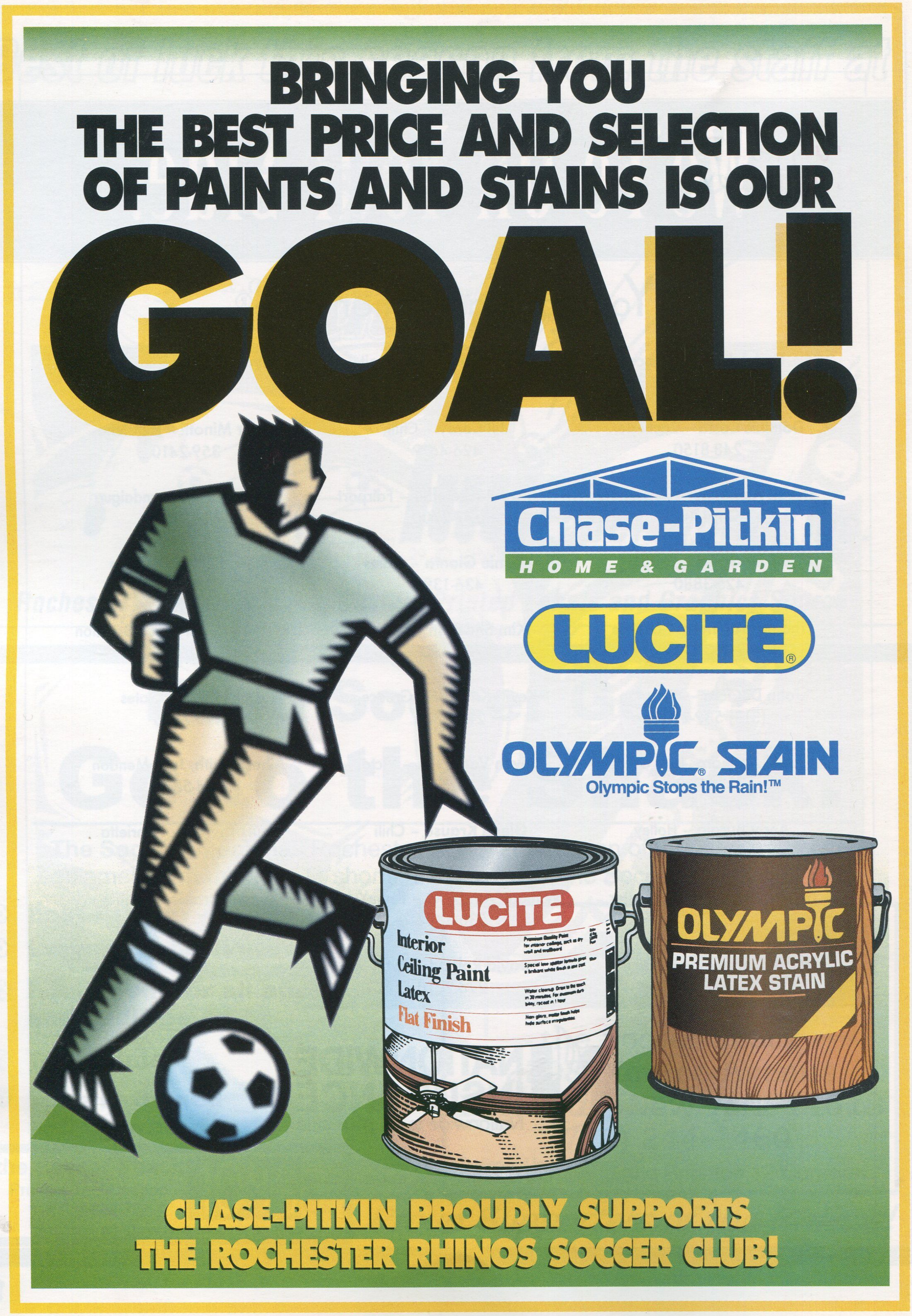
Regardless of how it ends, McKay plans on playing one more season in the A-League and then pursuing opportunities in coaching.

Of course, he hopes that final season is in Rochester, but his contract ends after this season and he said that he would consider other offers if he weren't asked back here.

"I want to return," he said. "I tend to think that if the team does well, the organization will want to keep it together. But, if I left, I know my heart would always be in Rochester."



Photo by James Lathrop


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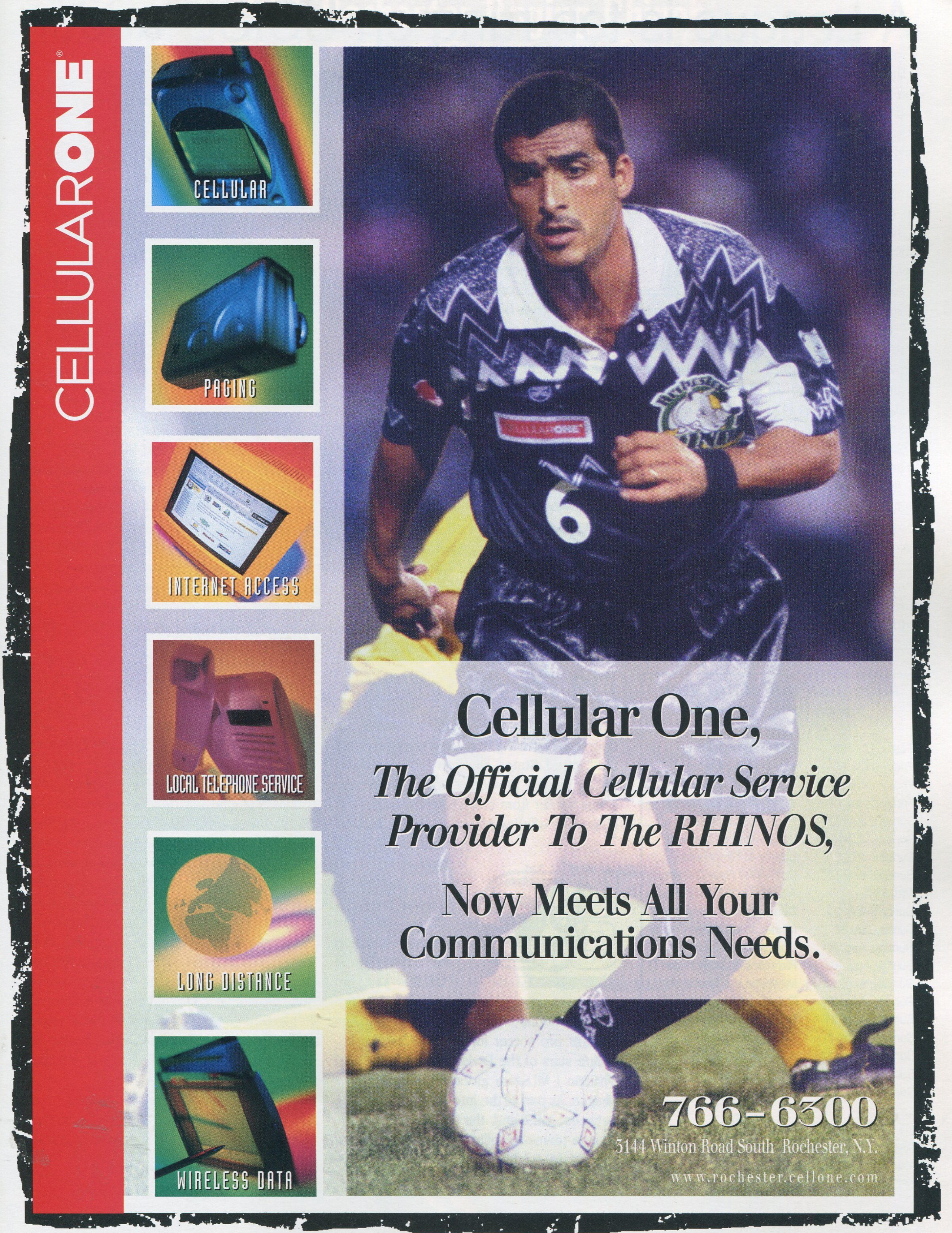


Photo courtesy of the *Democrat and Chronicle.*

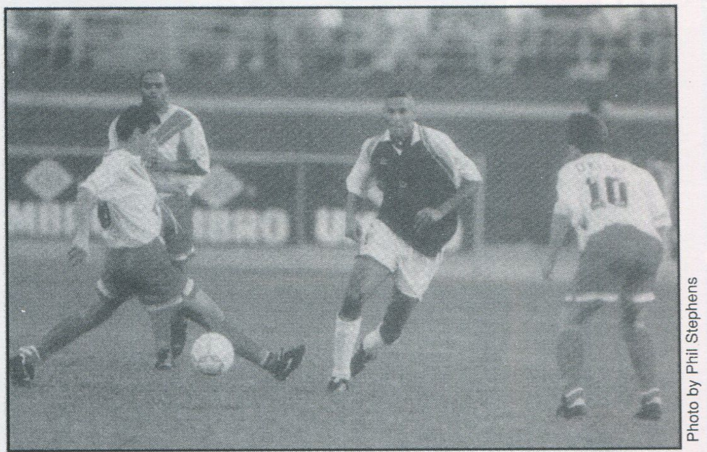
A-League is top rung on USISL ladder

The merger between the American Professional Soccer League and the USISL was completed in October 1996 and has revitalized Division II soccer, producing a consolidated product that is sure to be a winner in 1997 and beyond.

The top rung on the USISL ladder, the A-League has grown from seven teams in 1996 to 24 teams (in 17 U.S. states and three Canadian provinces) for 1997, including six teams that played in the A-League in 1996 and 14 teams that were members of the USISL in 1996, plus four expansion teams. In addition to its Division II status in the U.S., the A-League is the highest level of professional soccer in Canada.

A development agreement between the USISL and Major League Soccer allows players to move up the professional soccer ladder. More than a dozen 1996 MLS all-stars started in the USISL and moved up to MLS, including Marcelo Balboa, Paul Bravo, Dan Calichman, Mark Dodd, Mark Dougherty, John Doyle, Robin Fraser, Cle Kooiman, Jason Kreis, Brian McBride, Tony Meola, Steve Pittman, Steve Rammel, Tab Ramos, Mark Santel, Giovanni Savarese and Eric Wynalda. Thomas Rongen, the 1996 MLS coach of the year, was both a player and a coach in the APSL (a former name of the A-League).

The USISL-MLS agreement provides for working relationships between specific clubs. MLS' Colorado Rapids called up two players from their A-League affiliates – 1996 A-League Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year Wolde Harris of the A-League's Colorado Foxes and goalkeeper Marcus Hahnemann of the Seattle Sounders – before they started 1997 practices. Watch for many other players to shuttle between the A-League and MLS during the 1997 season.


Photo by Phil Stephens

U.S National Team player Tony Sanneh, center, moves up field in the 1996 Umbro/USISL All-Star Game in Blaine, Minn. Sanneh was a member of the Minnesota Thunder before being called up to MLS champion D.C. United.

A-League teams will play 28 league games in 1997 from April through Labor Day. 1. The A-League playoffs will conclude with the championship game Sept. 27 or 28.

The Seattle Sounders defeated the Rochester Rhinos 2-0 at Seattle on Oct. 6, 1996 to win their second consecutive A-League title. Two other teams in the A-League for 1997 won USISL titles in 1996: The California Jaguars defeated the Richmond Kickers 2-1 in a shootout at Richmond, Va. on Sept. 1 to claim the USISL Select League championship and the Charleston Battery defeated the Charlotte Eagles 3-2 in a shootout at Charleston, S.C. on Aug. 24 to capture the USISL Pro League crown.

A-League Match of the Week Live on Prime Network

Date	Match
Friday, May 23	California at El Paso
Friday, May 30	Montreal at Hershey
Friday, June 6	California at Milwaukee
Friday, June 13	Worcester at Rochester
Sunday, June 22	Rochester at Richmond
Sunday, June 29	Long Island at Carolina
Sunday, July 6	Seattle at Minnesota
Sunday, July 13	Orlando at New Orleans
Mid-July	A-League All-Star Game
Sunday, July 20	Connecticut at Long Island
Sunday, July 27	Minnesota at Orange County
Sunday, Aug. 3	Charleston at Nashville
Sunday, Aug. 10	Richmond at Jacksonville (T)
Sunday, Aug. 17	Milwaukee at Rochester
Sunday, Aug. 24	Raleigh at Charleston (T)
Sunday, Aug. 31	Montreal at Minnesota
Sunday, Sept. 7	A-League playoffs
Sunday, Sept. 14	A-League playoffs
Sunday, Sept. 21	A-League playoffs
Sept. 27 or 28	A-League Championship

(T) – Taped
(Schedule subject to change – Consult local listings for Prime Network affiliates)

D3 Pro League gains focus in '97

As the middle level of the three men's outdoor leagues in the USISL pyramid structure, the United States Division III Professional Soccer League provides competitive professional soccer from coast to coast across the U.S., while offering players a chance to hone their skills in a professional environment on a national scale.

The D3 Pro League – renamed for 1997 from "USISL Pro League" – is a step up from amateur-level soccer and the first taste of pro soccer for many of its players. Future stars of the Division II A-League and Division I MLS are groomed in the D3 Pro League. As part of the interleague agreement between MLS and the USISL, all D3 Pro League teams are official minor-league affiliates of MLS clubs, providing for players moves between the leagues.

The D3 Pro League includes 39 teams in 1997 and is the largest, in number of teams, of the USISL's three outdoor men's leagues. Teams will play 18 "league" games and a handful of non-league games this year. The season begins in April and concludes with the championship on Labor Day weekend.

An added element of excitement surrounding the D3 Pro League in 1997 is the concept of promotion, long a standard in professional leagues around the world. Beginning this season, the D3 Pro League champion will be promoted to the A-League for the next season, providing it meets Division II criteria. Relegation – sending the last place team down to the next lower league – has been discussed by the USISL, but will not be enacted in 1997.

The Charleston Battery defeated the Charlotte Eagles 3-2 in a shootout in the 1996 USISL Pro League Championship Game on Sept. 1.

1996 Rochester Raging Rhinos

FINAL STATISTICS

NO.	NAME	POS	GP	GS	MIN	G	A	PTS	SHOTS	FOULS	CARDS		SHOOTOUT	
											C	E	G	ATT
0	THOMPSON, Rett	GK	1	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	ANDRACKI, Bill	GK	27	27	2,411	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
2	LOPEZ, Dino	D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	ASHE, Tim	D	8	1	144	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1
4	MINOTT,Leon	D	22	20	1,665	0	0	0	1	21	3	0	0	0
5	SMOTRICH, Yuri	D	18	16	1,502	0	1	1	0	24	1	0	1	3
6	RIVAS, Rene	D	25	25	2,223	2	4	8	25	56	6	0	1	3
7	GUTIERREZ, Henry	M	13	13	1,034	3	3	9	26	27	5	0	0	2
8	TANNER, Tommy	M	26	26	2,035	1	6	8	9	27	4	0	0	2
9	KELLY, Danny	M	20	20	1,725	2	3	7	22	19	3	0	2	3
10	McKAY, Yogi	M	22	20	1,621	1	1	3	11	45	2	2	2	4
11	DEBRAH, Kofi	F	18	8	711	4	2	10	14	10	1	0	0	1
12	YOUNG, Paul	F	4	2	200	4	0	8	8	2	0	0	0	0
14	VILLAGRA, Gustavo	M	17	15	1,260	0	0	0	17	37	2	0	0	1
15	ERCOLI, Pat	M	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15	ALLEN, Howard	F	1	0	26	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
16	KENNELL, Chris	D	12	5	633	0	1	1	5	10	0	0	0	0
17	DAUDA, Fuseini	F	23	21	1,856	0	1	1	10	49	8	0	1	1
18	HOPFINGER, Carl	F	4	1	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	MILLER, Doug	F	27	23	2,228	18	2	38	71	26	1	0	0	4
20	TOMETSKO, Ken	M	1	1	90	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
21	MARINARO, Hector	M	23	19	1,758	4	7	15	51	14	4	1	3	5
22	STUART, Darrell	F	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	STEENKAMP, Lenin	F	21	21	1,890	5	5	15	57	26	3	0	2	3
	Departed:													
	RIZI, Marco	D	10	7	540	0	0	0	4	7	1	1	0	0
	KARIC, Zoran	M	6	5	303	0	1	1	22	6	0	1	1	2
	ROMANELLO, Gustavo	F	4	3	215	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	1
	WURDAK, Tom	M	4	3	273	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
	TOTALS		**27**	**27**	**2,430**	**44**	**36**	**124**	**328**	**398**	**41**	**3**	**12**	**34**

NO.	GOALKEEPER	GP	GS	MINS	GA	SVS	GAA	SO	RECORD		SHOTS FACED	SHOOTOUT			
									W	L		SAVES	GA	RECORD W	RECORD L
1	ANDRACKI, Bill	27	27	2,411	40	120	1.49	7	11	13	37	14	13	3	3
0	THOMPSON, Rett	1	0	19	2	1	9.47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TEAM TOTALS	**27**	**27**	**2,430**	**42**	**121**	**1.56**	**7**	**11**	**13**	**37**	**14**	**13**	**3**	**3**

RECORD	GP	W	L	SOW	SOL
RHINOS	27	11	13	3	3
OPPONENTS	27	13	11	3	3

SCORING	1ST	2ND	TOT
RHINOS	15	29	44
OPPONENTS	13	29	42

SHOTS	TOTAL
RHINOS	367
OPPONENTS	289

RHINOS WHEN:	W-L
Scoring First Goal	9(1)-2
Allowing First Goal	2(1)-10
Outshooting Opponent	9(2)-7
Shots Are Tied	1(1)-0
Outshot By Opponent	1-6
Leading at Half-Time	6-0
Tied at Half-Time	4(3)-8
Trailing at Half-Time	1-5

( )=Shootout Win

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

RHINOS		OPPONENTS
158	CORNER KICKS	128
1	CORNER KICKS SCORED	1
4	PENALTY KICKS	3
0	PENALTY KICKS SCORE	2
62	OFFSIDES	70
413	FOULS	372
6	EJECTIONS	4

ROCHESTER RAGING RHINOS
TEAM DIRECTORY

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Phone: 716.454.KICK • Fax: 716.454.5453

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FRANK DuROSS

Vice President/General Manager
CHRIS ECONOMIDES

Vice President/Operations
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Vice President/Communications
STEVE ROSSI

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PAT ERCOLI

Assistant Coach
FRANK ODOI

Head Trainer
CRAIG RAND

Controller
MIKE FLAHERTY

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MATTHEW COX

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PETER MANCUSO

Director of Merchandising
LYNNE VANGELLOW

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COLLEEN BROWN

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AMY CUMMINGS

Accounts Payable Manager
KAREN GALLAGHER

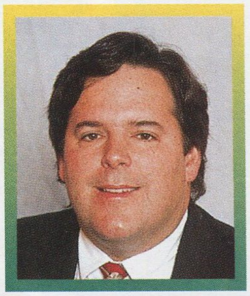
Consultants
CHRIS PALIN, JODY GAGE

Broadcasters
DON STEVENS & DON LALKA

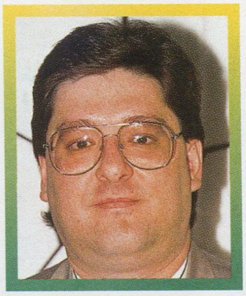
Radio Stations (all games)
WBBF AM-950 & WBER FM-90.5

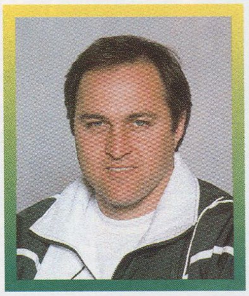
Television
PRIME NETWORK/EMPIRE SPORTS NETWORK
A-League Game of the Week

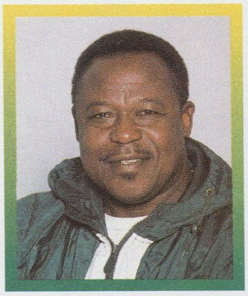
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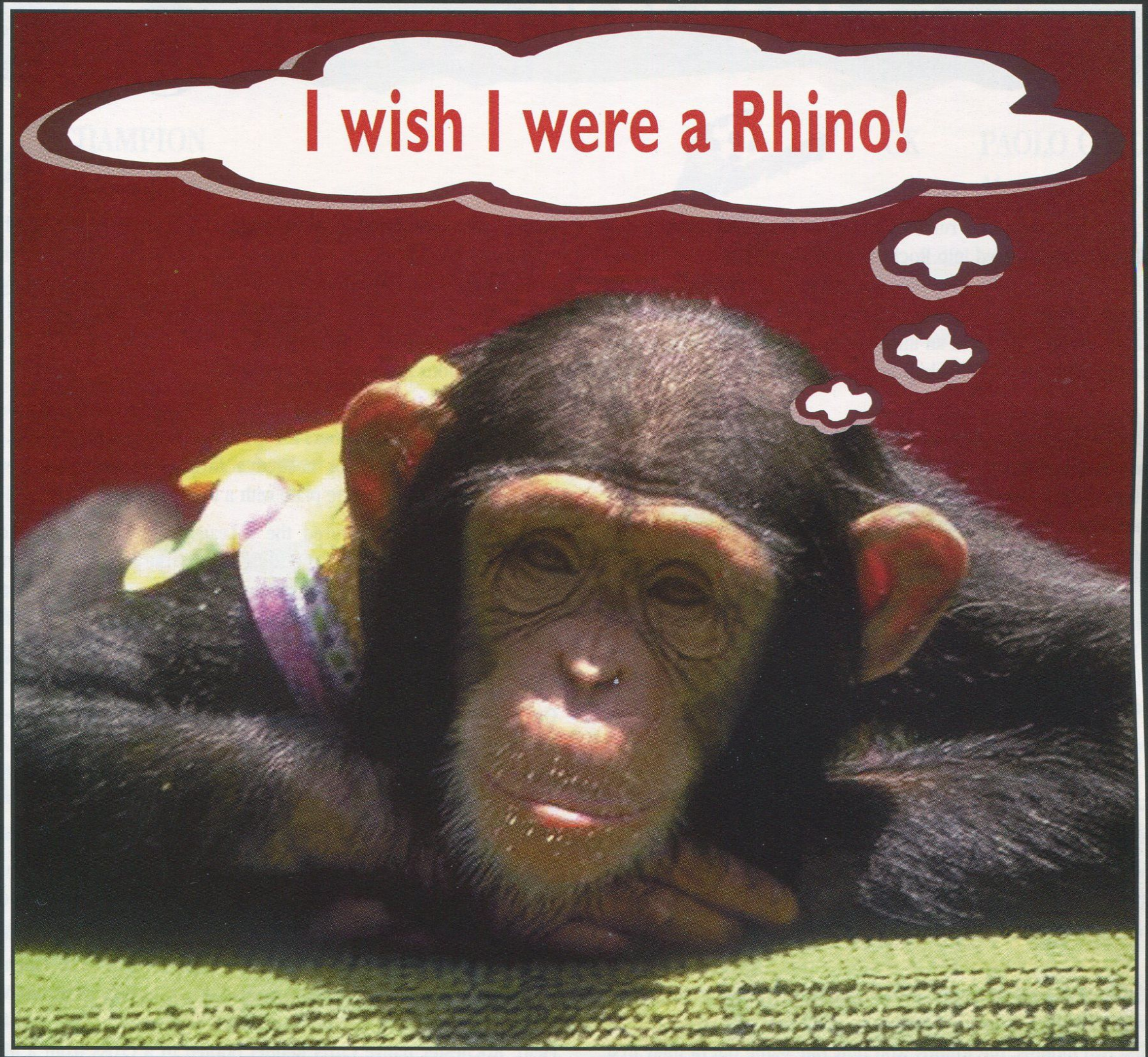


Left to Right: Pat Grow, Amy Cummings, Bob Russell, Peter Costanza, Colleen Brown, Karen Gallagher, Tim Soudan, Matthew Cox

Rochester Raging Rhinos Uniforms

White Jersey with Green Pinstripe
Green Shorts with White Trim

Black Jersey with White Trim
Black Shorts with White Trim


I wish I were a Rhino!


Soccer Sam
show
feel the kick

Fuseini Dauda Profile

BY DESMOND RINCON

Talk to fans, opposing players, and officials across the A-League and NPSL about what they think of Fuseini Dauda and the response you'll get won't be very kind. Thug, enforcer, and hoodlum are all names that have been used to describe the Rhinos and defender. Most Rhinos' fans are all too familiar with the ugly incidents involving Dauda, including his involvement this season in a bench-clearing brawl with the Carolina Dynamo that led to a four-game suspension. However, what most fans aren't familiar with is that Dauda is only 22-years-old, and like most his age, is adjusting to new life without any safety net, that college or life at home provides. Dauda faces this transition largely alone in an unfamiliar city, struggling to master a new language, and earns his living on a public stage where thousands of fans judge his worth night in and night out.

Not that Dauda allows his age nor the upheaval he's faced in the past two seasons to be an excuse for his actions. "No one is perfect, but I'm upset that fans come to the game and have to see that (the brawl with Carolina). I'm just glad that it happened early in my career, so I can hopefully learn from it and move on."

'Moving on,' is an expression that has come to typify the life of 6'2" 185 pounder who has gone from defender to forward and back again. Dauda's father took his younger sister and older brother to Canada from Ghana in 1986 when he was forced to move because of job considerations. In 1992, Dauda and the rest of his family joined them. His older sister remained in Ghana to start a life of her own with her new husband.

Although overjoyed to see his family reunited, Dauda left opportunity and the familiarity of his homeland behind. In Ghana, he played in the nation's highly competitive Second Division with Darkumar Super Marcas. The club was an affiliate of the First Division side Accra Great Olympics. Playing in Ghana, arguably Africa's finest soccer nation, could have led to offers to play in Europe with the world's best clubs. However, the concerns of Dauda's parents regarding his ability to handle life on his own at 17 caused him to put his young career aside.

His family settled in the area around Montreal and Dauda began to reestablish the bonds with his other family members that had been strained by the distance between them. However, the growth of his relationship with his older brother Mohammed would be the one that led him back to professional soccer.

Mohammed knew that his brother's combination of size, skill, and experience could dominate the local soccer scene. Together, they began playing in the regional amateur leagues, where Dauda, traditionally a defender, converted himself into a striker. "I made myself into a forward because my skill level was higher than my teammates, it was just easier for me to score goals."

After a brief time in the now defunct Canadian Soccer League, Dauda returned to the local amateur leagues where Rhinos Coach Pat Ercoli approached him after an indoor match and asked if he was interesting in coming to Rochester for a tryout. "I was excited, it was a chance to play professionally again," said the now 20-year-old Dauda.

However, his parents' enthusiasm was dashed with a healthy dose of skepticism.

"They were afraid, like all parents would be, about whether or not I could take care of myself. But, my brother was the one who believed in me and pushed me to take the chance."

"My brother is my best friend, my idol, and my biggest supporter. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here right now."

Mohammed convinced Dauda's parents to allow him to go to Rochester and renew his career. On his arrival, he was billed as a potent scoring threat and his size drew natural comparisons to Onandi Lowe, the dominating goal scorer for the Montreal Impact.

Yet high expectations and youthful enthusiasm quickly mutated into questions regarding Dauda's skill and heart. Shortly after his 21st birthday, Dauda knew it was time for a change. "I went back to defender. I needed to do what was natural for me and to play the way I always thought."

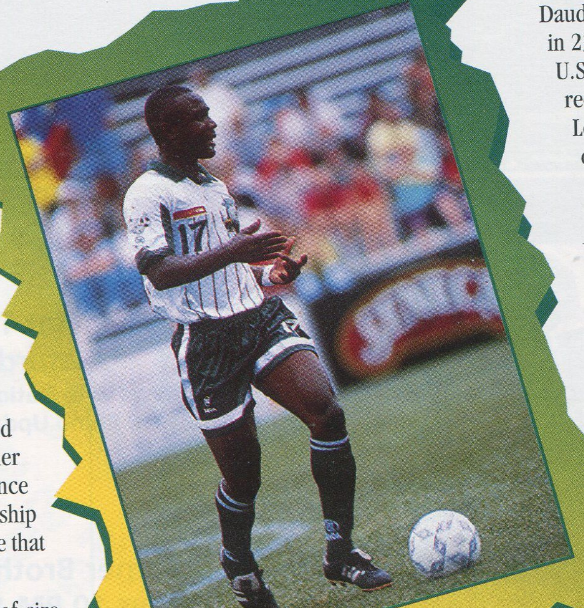


Photo by James Lathrop

The move back to defender paid immediate dividends. Dauda went on to become the Rhinos' Ironman playing in 23 regular season matches and all eight playoff and U.S. Open Cup matches. Rather than gaining recognition because of his resemblance to Onandi Lowe, Dauda earn praise for his physical marking of Lowe and turned him into largely a non-factor in the team's matches versus Montreal. Dauda's aggressive style even drew comparisons to the NHL's Claude Lemieux by the Montreal media.

Dauda admits that those kind of comparisons and his style of play make him a target for referees in the A-League. However, it not something he's overly concerned with, his focus is on playing his best soccer and adjusting to life with his 'new' family.

"I'm still learning the game and Lenin (Steenkamp), Doug (Miller), they help me with that. After practice, Lenin will come home and he'll say 'do this' or 'don't do that.' He and Doug are like brothers to me. Doug will help by telling me where to go and where not to go because I'm still learning the city. Frank Odoi and Pat are like parents to me, calling me at home, checking up on me."

While Dauda has faced some very public growing pains over the past two seasons, it is hard to think that many young men could have built a 'new' family and a new tradition any better than he has.

1996 A-League Awards

CHAMPION
Seattle Sounders

RUNNER-UP
Rochester Raging Rhinos



TOP GOAL SCORER
Doug Miller, Rochester Rhinos, 18 goals

ASSIST LEADERS
Wolde Harris, Colorado Foxes
Carsten Siersbaek, Colorado Foxes
8 Assists

TOP POINT-GETTER
Wolde Harris, Colorado Foxes, 42 points

GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR
Paolo Ceccarelli, Montreal Impact,
2,340 minutes, 17 GA, 0.65 GAA

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
Wolde Harris, Colorado Foxes

DEFENDER OF THE YEAR
John Limniatis, Montreal Impact

COACH OF THE YEAR
Lorne Donaldson, Colorado Foxes

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR
Kevin Skinner (FIFA Referee)
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Wolde Harris, Colorado Foxes

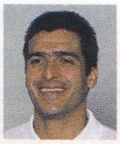
1996 All A-League Team

GK — **PAOLO CECCARELLI**
Montreal Impact

D — **JOHN LIMNIATIS**
Montreal Impact

D — **WADE WEBBER**
Seattle Sounders

D — **CARLOS LLAMOSA**
New York Fever



D — **RENE RIVAS**
Rochester Raging Rhinos

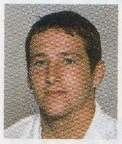
M — **NICK DeSANTIS**
Montreal Impact

M — **MARTIN NASH**
Vancouver 86'ers

M — **ANTHONY McCREATH**
Colorado Foxes

F — **WOLDE HARRIS**
Colorado Foxes

F — **DOMENIC MOBILIO**
Vancouver 86'ers



F — **DOUG MILLER**
Rochester Raging Rhinos



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MAY

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
				1	2	3 HER
4	5	6	7	8	9 CHAR	10
11	12	13	14 JAC	15	16 CAR	17
18	19 TOR	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 TOR	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 JAC
8 EXH	9	10	11	12	13 WOR	14
15 CONN	16	17	18	19	20	21 RAL
22 RICH	23	24	25 CAR	26	27	28
29 HER	30					

JULY

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
		1	2	3	4 MON	5
6 MON	7	8	9	10	11	12 RICH
13	14	15 ALL-STAR	16 LI	17	18 HER	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 TOR	26
27 LI	28	29	30 TOR	31		

AUGUST

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
					1	2 RAL
3	4	5	6	7	8 CONN	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 CHAR	16
17 MIL	18	19	20	21	22 WOR	23
24 CONN	25	26	27	28	29 LI	30

- Home Games
- Away Games
- Israeli Exhibition/A-League All-Star Game

Game Times: Sunday & Monday 6:05 pm
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 7:35 pm



A LEAGUE

Professio



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Kansas City Players Feel Right at Home in Rochester

BY MIKE LATONA

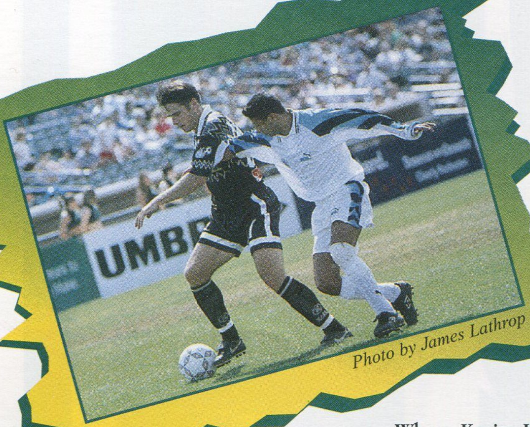


Photo by James Lathrop

When Kevin Koetters' wife arrived in Rochester in early July, he warned her that things could get a little hectic when she attended her first Rhinos game.

"Indoors, we'd average 4,000-5,000 people. When Kathryn came in, she couldn't believe the stadium full of people," said Koetters, the first-year Rhino defender.

Koetters said he, also, was a little surprised by the crowds of 10,000-plus that surged to Frontier Field.

"I heard Rochester had a great following, but I didn't really expect what I saw," Koetters said. "It's amazing. And what makes it special is that the people know soccer here."

Similar admiration is voiced by Nate Houser, another first-year Rhino defender from Kansas City.

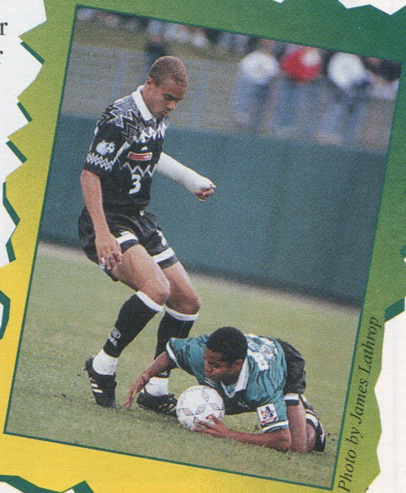
"This city is unbelievable on fan support. They sent chills down my spine at the home opener," Houser remarked. "As a player and as a team, you can't ask for anything more."

Koetters and Houser are hoping to raise the Rhino faithful's enthusiasm to a fever pitch by bringing a title here. It's an accomplishment both are familiar with: they were teammates on the 1996-97 Kansas City Attack which captured the National Professional Soccer League indoor championship.

Koetters and Houser have played four seasons together for Kansas City and enjoyed phenomenal success. The Attack swept Cleveland in the NPSL finals this year, and finished as playoff runner-up in 1995-96.

Koetters has spent the past six winters with Kansas City. He also played outdoors for the Kansas City Wiz in the Major Soccer League last summer, starting six of 15 games. His other pro experience was for the Colorado Foxes of the A-League in 1990 and the San Diego Sockers of the Continental Indoor Soccer League in the summer of 1993. Prior to turning pro, Koetters twice earned NAIA All-American honors for Rockhurst College.

Houser is also a two-time NAIA All-American. Although he has played defense for most of his pro career, Houser was a prolific scorer at Baker University. He set school records for goals (67), assists (38) and points; and ended up second in the nation his junior year with 31 goals. Houser recently completed his fourth winter with Kansas City and also competed in the USISL in the summers of 1995, at St. Louis; and 1996, at Hampton, where he was voted the Mariners' MVP.


Photo by James Lathrop

Houser admits that he misses being on the front line, and is hoping he can figure more prominently in the Rhinos' offensive scheme as the year goes on.

"I've had just one assist so far (through July 12). I feel I should be contributing more," Houser said. "I'd been a forward for a long, long time, so I'd been kind of used to scoring goals and having fun. I love my position, but hopefully I can move to more of a defensive-midfield position."

Houser is setting higher goals for his Rhinos team, as well, as it prepares for its stretch run. Although Rochester had posted a commendable 10-6 record through mid-July, he felt that the club had not played to its full potential.

"Our team can do whatever we want to do," Houser stated.

Koetters agreed, saying, "We've got a lot of quality players. It's just a matter of being on the same page."

At the same time, Koetters said he and Houser are not likely candidates for giving impassioned motivational speeches to their teammates.

"I try to lead more by example, rather than 'rah, rah, let's go,'" Koetters remarked. "Nate is very easygoing. He just comes to work each day and tries to do his job; he's not very vocal."

Off the field, Koetters enjoys reading and golf. He credits Billy Andracki, the second-year goaltender, for helping support his love for the links.

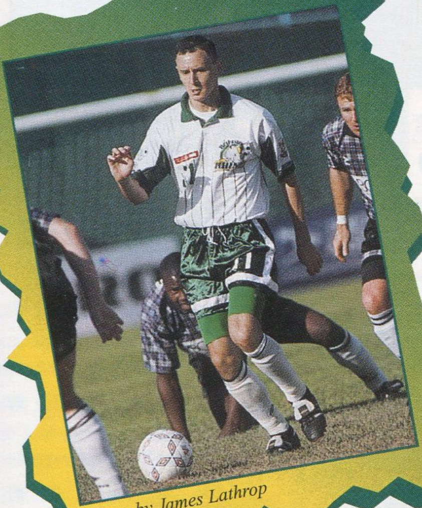
"I was very impressed with Billy's abilities to get us onto golf courses," joked Koetters, an eight-handicapper, who has played with Andracki at such private courses as Irondequoit, Ridgemont and Cobblestone Creek.

Houser, on the other hand, prefers college campuses to country clubs. Although his schedule is pretty crammed right now-Houser plays soccer year-round and is also preparing for his November wedding-he would like to attend law school and eventually teach law.

"I love college; it's a great atmosphere. I love being around people," Houser said.

Building the Rhinos

BY AL LOUIS


Photo by James Lathrop

When you've been in your house for a number of years, you're always looking to expand and add more rooms to the structure. An extra family room, a finished basement or a deck built as an addition to the backyard. The Rochester Raging Rhinos are also looking to the future of professional soccer in the Flower City. While you can call the Rhinos a success story after only a year and a half in existence, the organization is looking to grow and expand.

As a team, the Rhinos look to challenge for the A-League championship every year. That is one of the goals. But the organization also plans to stay in the community for many years to come, making a commitment to excellence both on and off the field.

Off the field, the Rhinos front office will continue to work hard to service season ticket holders, maintain their presence in the community with player appearances and work with youth soccer programs in Western New York. While the regular season lasts six months, the staff works year-round to ensure that the Rhinos are open for business.

On the field, Vice President/General Manager Chris Economides has a plan to keep the Rhinos competitive for many years to come. Rochester currently owns the contracts of three players. It is Economides' goal to own the rights to 10-15 players year-round in the near future.

"We would like to own the contracts of our key players" said Economides. "To have our starters and top reserves as our property assures that our core players are committed to our goal of championship teams. While we would never hold any player back from playing indoor professional soccer in the winter months, we want to be in the position of owning their rights and loaning the players out, instead of worrying how we are going to secure players for the upcoming season.

"In a way, we can control where the players play indoor, and that would preferably be in Buffalo with the Blizzard so we can keep an eye on them. It's an ideal situation having an indoor team 75 miles down the road."

Economides also would like to develop the local players and add more Rochester players to the roster. "The Rochester-area has some talented players, and we want them to stay home and play for the Rhinos. Yogi McKay, Leon Minott and Chris Kennel are examples of home-grown products who have started the majority of our games. Younger players like Scott Miller, Nino Pilato and Joe Mercik are being developed to be regulars in the near future. We're excited about having local guys compete for a starting position. Our fans can relate to the local players."

One way to keep the Rhinos name in the news in the off-season is indoor soccer. An idea has been proposed for an indoor tournament to be played among four A-League teams in the winter, a mini six-game round-robin competition during December, January and February in each city. Rochester would be a natural selection, with The Arena at the Rochester War Memorial, home of the Rochester Americans of the American Hockey League, just down the street from Frontier Field.

The Rhinos actually hosted three National Professional Soccer League indoor games last winter in the War Memorial, with the Toronto Shooting Stars as the "home" team. "The games were great, but soccer fans in Rochester need to be exposed a little bit more to the indoor game," said Economides. "I think if we field a "Rhino" team, with players that fans can identify with, we can draw more fans to the games. The proposed tournament, with the right players, will be a success.

"The tournament will be great action, keep the players who do not regularly play indoors in shape, and its a good prelude to training camp in April," continued Ecomomides. " Plus it keeps the Rhinos name out in the public eye year-round. That's important for our marketing program."

The future of professional soccer in Rochester looks bright. With a committment to the community, the Rhinos plan to stay in the city on the banks of the Genesee River a long time.

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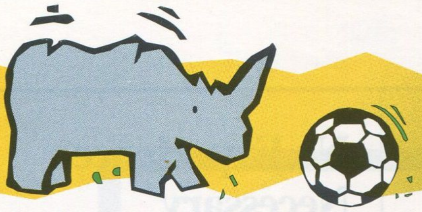
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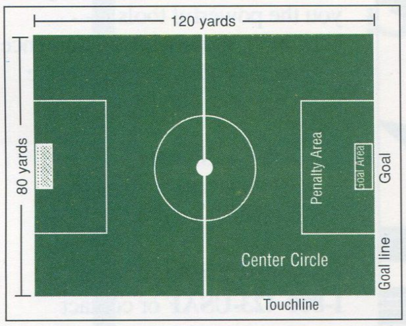
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CONDENSED Laws of the Game

LAW I: Field of Play



LAW II: Ball The ball is made of leather or other safe, approved material: 27 to 28 inches in circumference, 14 to 16 inches, inflated to a pressure of 9.0 to 10.5 psi.

LAW III: Number of Players A maximum of 11 players on the field for each team, one of whom must be designated as goalkeeper. Up to two substitutes may be used by each team.

LAW IV: Players' Equipment Jersey, shorts, stockings, shinguards and shoes. The goalkeeper's jersey color must distinguish him from other players and the referee. A player may not wear anything dangerous to another player.

LAW V: Referee One referee is appointed for each match. He is responsible for enforcement of the Laws; serving as timekeeper, disciplining players; stopping the match if, in his opinion, a player has been seriously hurt; preventing persons other than the players and linesmen from entering the field without his permission. All decisions by the referee are final.

LAW VI: Linesmen Two linesmen are appointed to assist the referee in controlling the match by indicating offside; when a ball has crossed a touchline and which team should put it back into play with a throw-in; when a ball had crossed a goal line and whether it should be put back into play with a goal kick or corner kick; when an infraction had been committed; and whether a goal has been scored fairly.

LAW VII: Duration of the Games Two equal periods of 45 minutes. The referee may extend the time for long or unusual delays, such as injury or time-wasting by a team. (Note: A-League rules call for a sudden-death overtime period of 15 minutes and, if necessary, a shoot-out tiebreaker when a match is tied after 90 minutes of regulation play.)

LAW VIII: Start of Play The team that wins the coin flip can either choose which end of the field it wishes to defend or take the kickoff. Each team must remain on its own half of the field and the defending players must be a minimum of 10 yards away from the ball until it is kicked forward and rolled its full circumference. A goal cannot be scored directly from kickoff. After a goal, the team scored upon kicks off. After halftime the kickoff is taken by the team that did not kick off to start the game. Drop ball: When the referee stops play for a reason other than a rule infraction or a delay such as a player injury, he restarts play by dropping the ball where the ball was when the play was stopped. A drop ball is not in play until it hits the ground.

LAW IX: Ball In and Out of Play The ball is out of play when (a) it has wholly crossed the goal line or touchline, whether on the ground or in the air, or (b) the game has been stopped by the referee. The ball is in play at all other times from the beginning to the end of a half, including when it remains on the field after striking the referee, linemen, goal post, crossbar, or corner flag; and after an assumed infringement of the Laws, until the referee stops play.

LAW X: Method of Scoring A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the crossbar while it is legally in play.

LAW XI: Offside A player is an offside position if he is nearer to his opponent's goal line than the ball, unless (a) he is in his own half of the field of play, or (b) there are at least two of his opponents as close or closer to their own goal. A player is penalized for being in an offside position only if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by a teammate, he is (in the opinion of the referee) (a) interfering with play or with an opponent, or (b) seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position. A player is not declared offside by the referee (a) merely because of his being in an offside position, or (b) if he receives the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick or throw-in, or when it has been dropped by the referee.

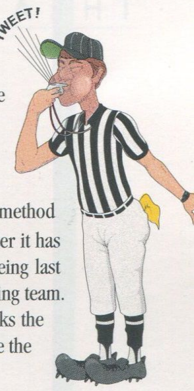
LAW XII: Fouls and Misconduct A team whose player intentionally attempts or actually kicks, trips, jumps at, charges violently, charges from behind, strikes or spits at, holds or pushes an opponent, or handles the ball is penalized by a direct kick. Any one of these nine offenses committed in the penalty area by a defender results in the awarding of a penalty kick to the attacking team. A team whose player commits less fragrant fouls such as offside, dangerous play or obstruction is penalized by an indirect free kick. The referee may caution a player (or others) for persistent misconduct, dissent, ungentlemanly conduct or entering the field without permission; the offender is shown a yellow car The referee also may send off (eject) a player (or others) f violent conduct and/or serious foul play, foul or abusive languag or persistent misconduct after receiving a caution. The player se off the field may not be replaced.

LAW XIII: Free Kick A direct free kick from which a goal c be scored directly against the offending team; an indirect free ki from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has be touched by another player before entering the goal. In both case the offending team's player must be at least 10 yards from the b until the ball has been touched, and the ball must be still. (Note: League rules call for defenders to stand at least 15 yards from th ball on all free kicks.)

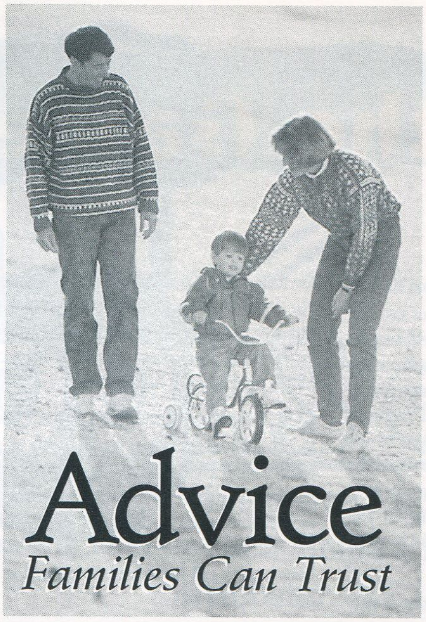
LAW XIV: Penalty Kick A direct free kick from the penal spot. All players except the player taking the kick and the opposin player taking the kick and the opposing goalkeeper must rema outside the penalty area until the ball is kicked. The defendi goalkeeper may move laterally along the goal line prior to t striking of the ball, but he may not move forward until the ball struck by the shooter.

LAW XV: Throw-In The method for putting the ball back i play after it has wholly passed over the touchline. A player from team that did not touch the ball last takes the throw-in from point on the touchline where the ball exited the field; he throws using both hands to deliver the ball from behind and over his he a part of each foot is either on the touchline or on the grou outside the touchline. An indirect free kick will be awarded goalkeeper picks up the ball with his hands after receiving a thro in from a teammate.

LAW XVI: Goal Kick The method for putting the ball back into play after it has wholly crossed the goal line after being touched by a player from the attacking team. A player from the team that was defending kicks the ball from his own goal area.



LAW XVII: Corner Kick The method for putting the ball back into play after it has wholly crossed the goal line after being last touched by a player from the defending team. A player from the attacking team kicks the ball from the corner nearest to where the ball exited the field.

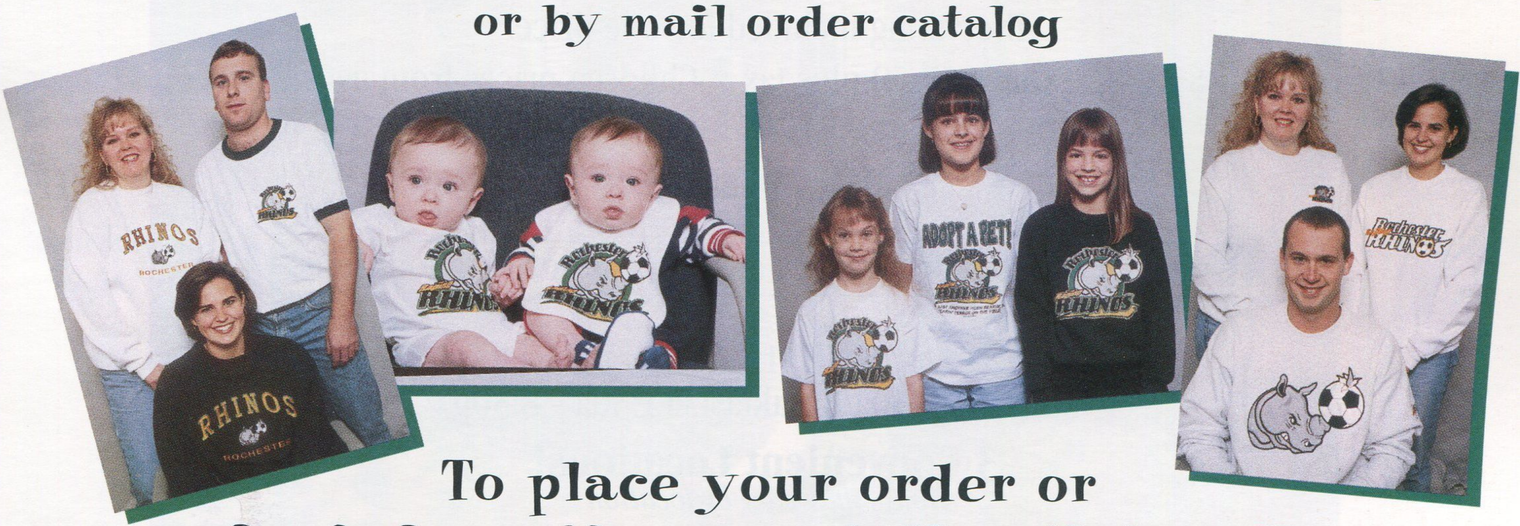




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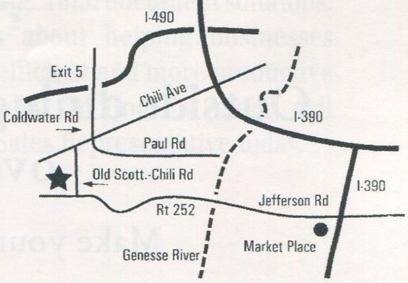
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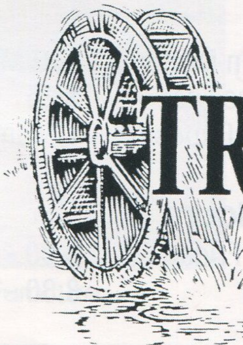
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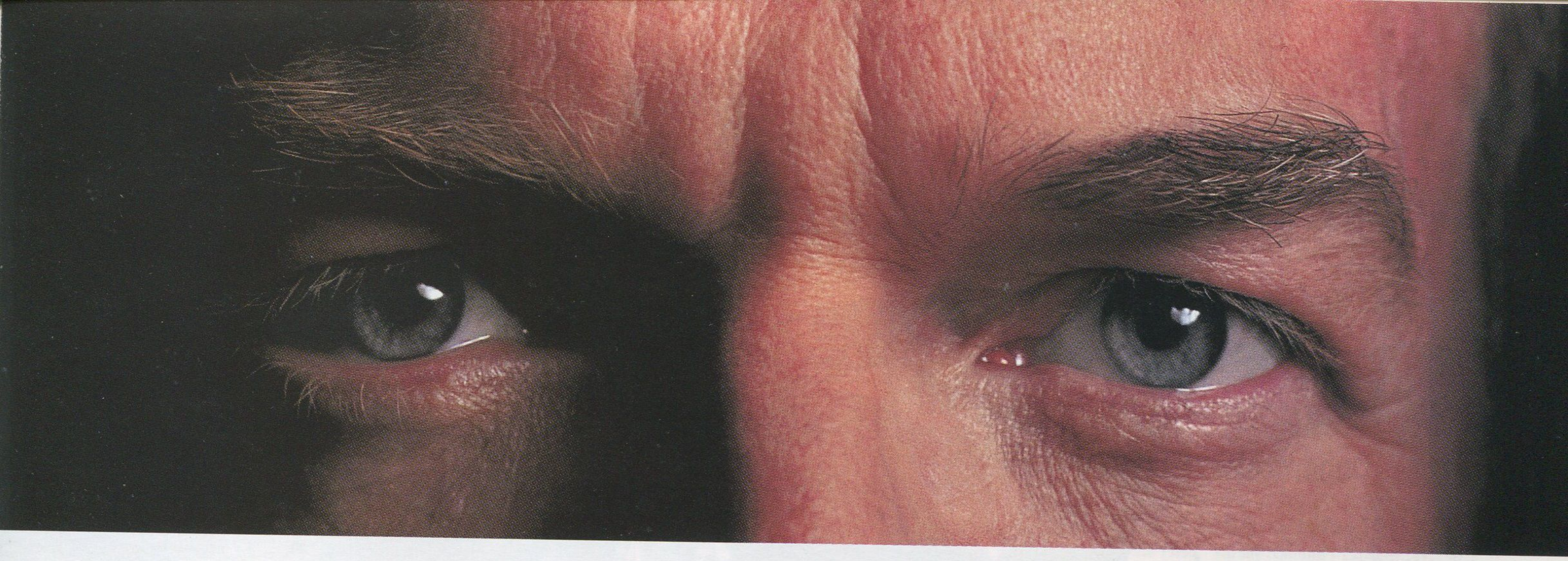
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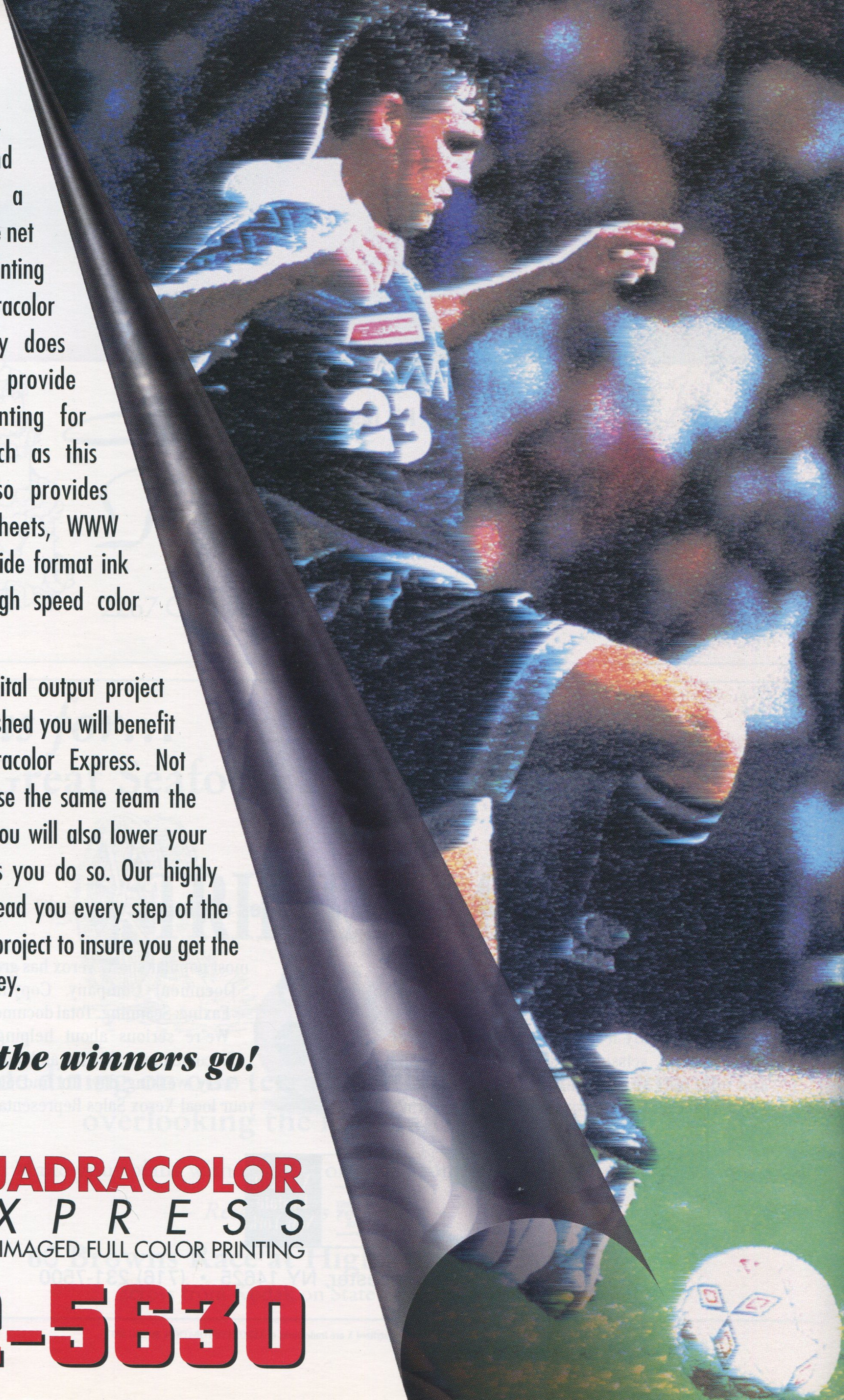


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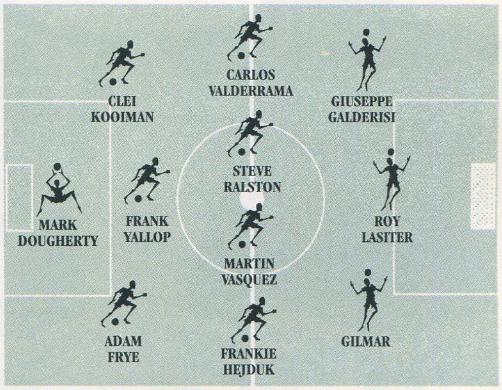
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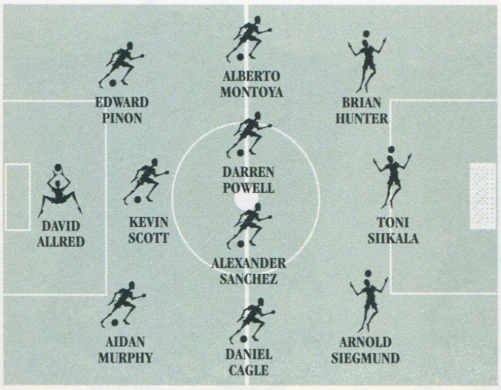
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As one of the most well know teams in MLS, the Tampa Bay Mutiny are expected to win nearly every game and although that is virtually impossible, fans usually aren't disappointed after watching them play. With the likes of world-class players Carlos Valderrama, Roy Lasiter, Giuseppe Galderisi and Clei Kooiman, the Mutiny field a very highly profiled team each and every night.

As July draws to a close, the Mutiny are in a tough battle for second place in the Eastern Conference, leading New England by just one point. Both teams trail first place D.C. United, the defending MLS champions.

Tampa Bay returns to Frontier Field for a rematch of last year's epic 4-3 double overtime game which saw the Rochester Rhinos advance in the U.S. Open Cup. The Mutiny are undoubtedly seeking revenge and the game is expected to be fantastic.

*Did You Know...*Mutiny superstar F Galderisi is the most fouled player in the history of MLS — teammate Kooiman is second among all MLSers in career fouls committed.



RALEIGH FLYERS

Raleigh, North Carolina

Saturday, August 2 - 7:35 p.m.

Owner/President: Dr. Hugo Uyttenhove
V.P. of Operations: Joseph Vartanesian Jr.
Head Coach: Arnold Siegmund
Assitant Coaches: Jose Cornejo, Mike Moltzen

A-League member since: 1993
1996 Record: 12-12 overall
Colors: White and Blue
Home Field: WRAL Soccer Center - Raleigh Flyers Stadium - capacity: 3,200

For the first time in team history, the FLyers were able to build on a program from the previous season. Raleigh returned a number of key local players for the 1997 campaign and added a few key foreigners to supplement the roster in hopes of a successful season.

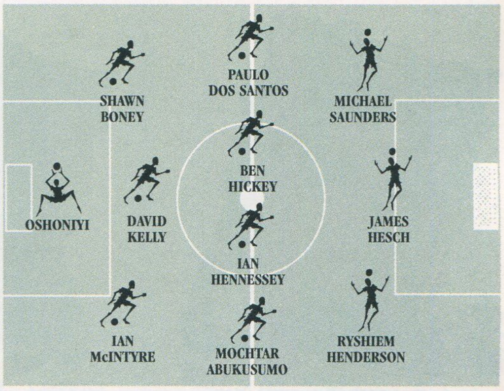
Heading into August, Raleigh is hooked up with Charleston in a battle for the fourth and final playoff spot in the Atlantic Division. Brian Hunter and Toni Siikala lead the Flyers in goals, while M Alberto Montoya is the key play-maker. David Allred is the man respnsible for keeping the ball out of the Raleigh net and he has posted four shutouts in his first 20 games.

*Did You Know...*Dr. Uyttenhove, the team owner, is originally from Belgium. He has never seen the Flyers post a losing record in any of their first four seasons in the USISL, compiling a 45-33 overall regular-season mark.

CONNECTICUT WOLVES

New Britain, Connecticut

Friday, August 8 -7:35 p.m.



Owner/President: Cliff Onolfo
General Manager: Tom Jackson
Coach: Steve Stokoe
Assitant Coach: Ramiro Alzate

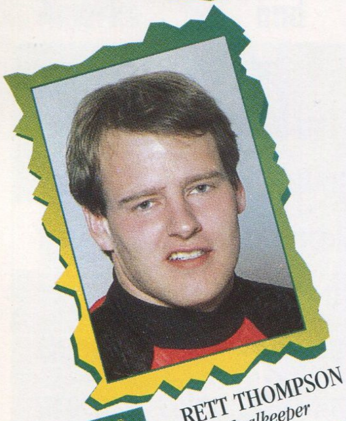
A-League member since: 1993
1996 Record: 14-11 overall
Colors: Blue Plain, White, Black
Home Field: Veteran's Memorial Park - capacity: 10,000

Following a strong finish in 1996, including the club's first winning record after three losing seasons, the Wolves look to be a contender in the Northeast Division. Head Coach Steve Stokoe, a native of England, played two years for the Wolves and was also team captain.

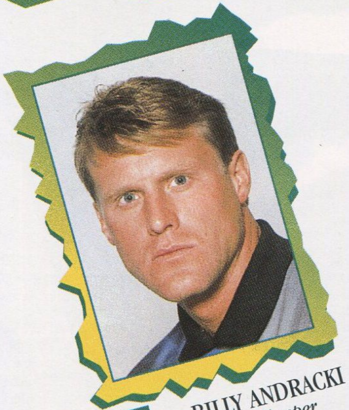
The Wolves got off to a hot start, winning two of their first three games as F Michael Saunders netted three goals, but have since settled to the bottom of the Northeast Division. Connecticut has their sights set on Long Island and the fourth playoff spot in their division. One of the Wolves biggest problems is scoring goals, managing just 16 in their first 18 games.

Key players include goalkeeper Oshoniyi, who is among the league leaders in GAA, M Ben Hickey, and A-League All-Star Shawn Boney.

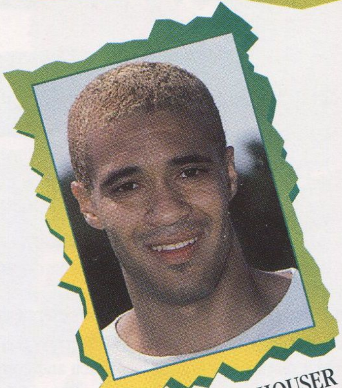
*Did You Know...*The Wolves had two former players in the 1996 MLS Championship game, Curt Onolfo of the Los Angeles Galaxy and John Maessner of D.C. United. They were college roommates at the University of Virginia.



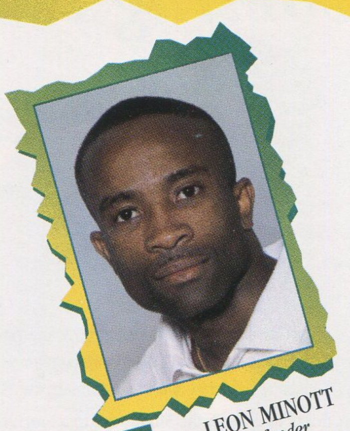
0 RETT THOMPSON
Goalkeeper
Height: 6' 4" *Weight:* 200 lbs.
DOB: 11/17/69
Birthplace: Rochester, NY
Last Club: Rochester-A



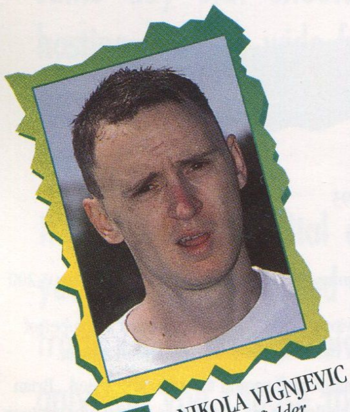
1 BILLY ANDRACKI
Goalkeeper
Height: 6' 0" *Weight:* 185 lbs.
DOB: 5/25/69
Birthplace: Prince Williams, VA
Last Club: Rochester-A & Philadelphia-NPSL



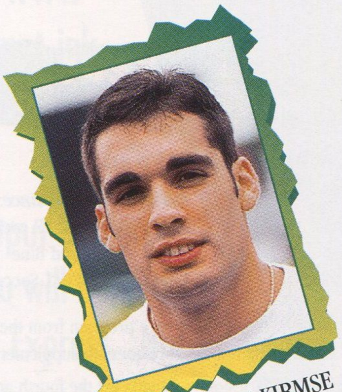
3 NATE HOUSER
Defender
Height: 6' 2" *Weight:* 185 lbs.
DOB: 10/8/72
Birthplace: Poway, CA
Last Club: Kansas City-NPSL



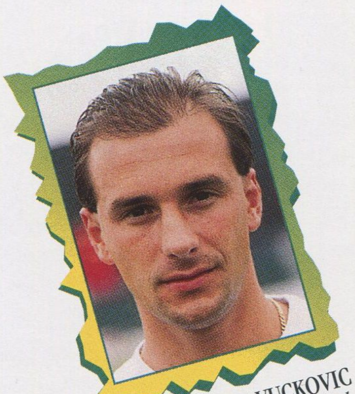
4 LEON MINOTT
Defender
Height: 5' 7" *Weight:* 150 lbs.
DOB: 6/19/69
Birthplace: St. Catherine, Jamaica
Last Club: Rochester-A



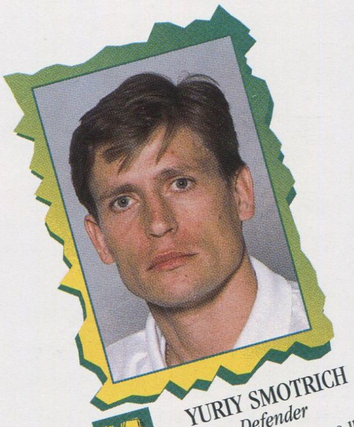
11 NIKOLA VIGNJEVIC
Midfielder
Height: 6' 2" *Weight:* 165 lbs.
DOB: 3/12/71
Birthplace: Yugoslavia
Last Club: Cleveland-NPSL



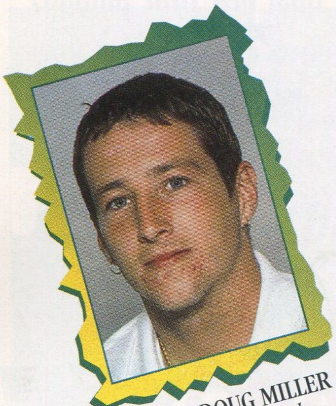
12 MIKE KIRMSE
Midfielder
Height: 5' 10" *Weight:* 165 lbs.
DOB: 12/10/72
Birthplace: New York, NY
Last Club: FSV Salmrohr-Germany Div. III



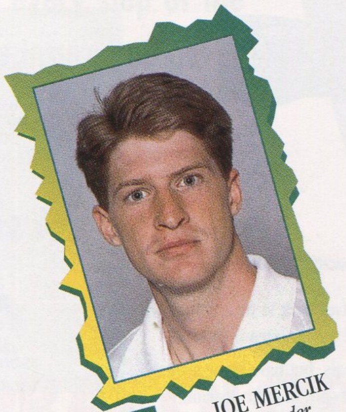
13 BOJAN VUCKOVIC
Midfielder/Forward
Height: 5' 11" *Weight:* 175 lbs.
DOB: 7/17/70
Birthplace: Yugoslavia
Last Club: Montreal-A & Baltimore-NPSL



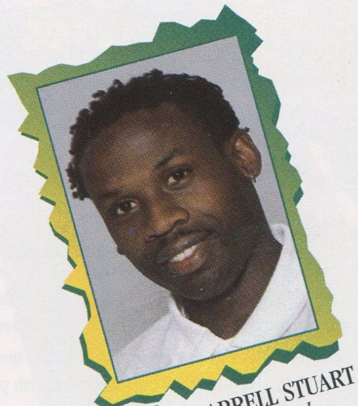
14 YURIY SMOTRICH
Defender
Height: 6' 2" *Weight:* 180 lbs.
DOB: 6/5/62
Birthplace: Chernomorets, Ukraine
Last Club: Rochester-A



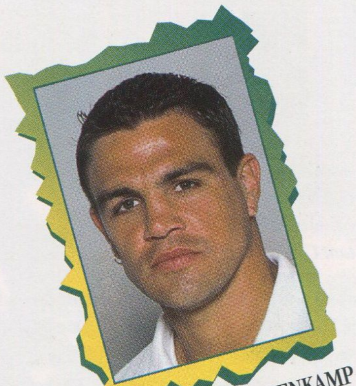
19 DOUG MILLER
Forward
Height: 5' 8" *Weight:* 155 lbs.
DOB: 5/5/69
Birthplace: Newark, NJ
Last Club: Rochester-A & Buffalo-NPSL



21 JOE MERCIK
Defender
Height: 6' 1" *Weight:* 170 lbs.
Birthplace: Rochester, NY
Last Club: University of Buffalo

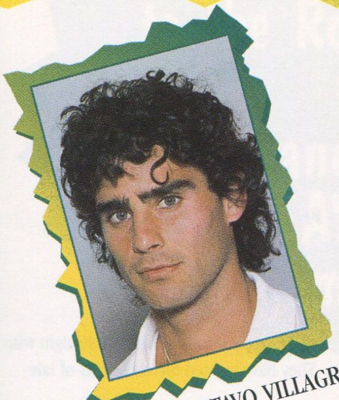


22 DARRELL STUART
Forward
Height: 5' 6" *Weight:* 160 lbs.
DOB: 5/16/67
Birthplace: Antigua
Last Club: Rochester-A



23 LENIN STEENKAMP
Midfielder
Height: 6' 0" *Weight:* 180 lbs.
DOB: 9/9/69
Birthplace: Durban, South Africa
Last Club: Rochester-A & Buffalo-NPSL

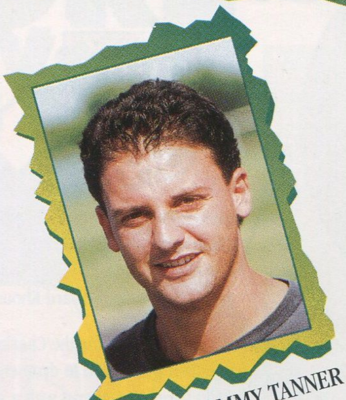
97 ROSTER



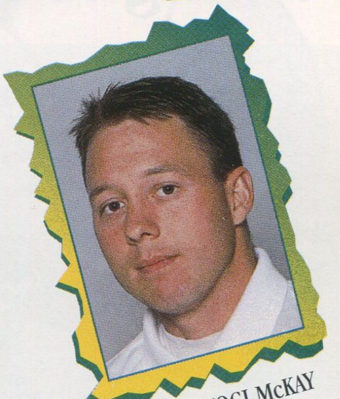
5 GUSTAVO VILLAGRA
Midfielder
Height: 6' 1" *Weight:* 180 lbs.
DOB: 2/13/70
Birthplace: S.S. Jujuy, Argentina
Last Club: Rochester-A



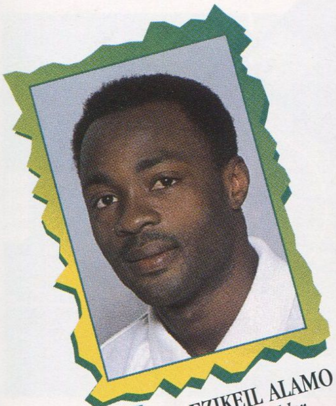
7 HENRY GUTIERREZ
Midfielder
Height: 5' 8" *Weight:* 150 lbs.
DOB: 8/28/68
Birthplace: Hoboken, NJ
Last Club: Rochester-A & Cleveland-NPSL



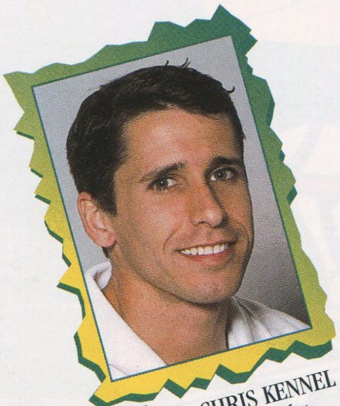
8 TOMMY TANNER
Midfielder
Height: 5' 8" *Weight:* 150 lbs.
DOB: 5/10/68
Birthplace: Syracuse, NY
Last Club: Rochester-A & Cleveland-NPSL



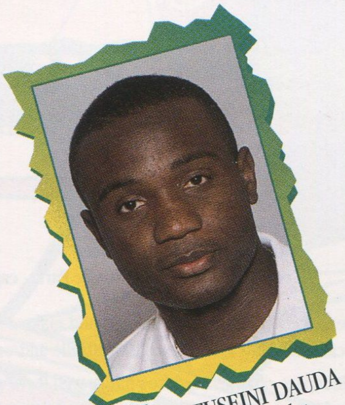
10 YOGI McKAY
Midfielder
Height: 5' 8" *Weight:* 160 lbs
DOB: 6/16/65
Birthplace: Rochester, NY
Last Club: Rochester-A Buffalo-NPSL



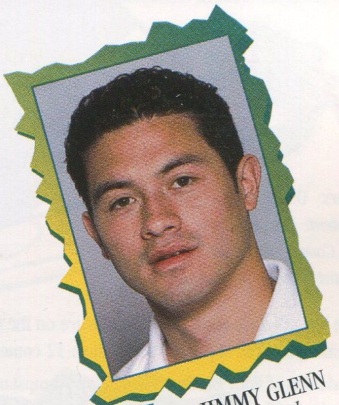
15 EZIKEIL ALAMO
Midfielder
Height: 5' 8" *Weight:* 160 lbs.
DOB: 10/26/72
Birthplace: Accra, Ghana
Last Club: Santos-NYC



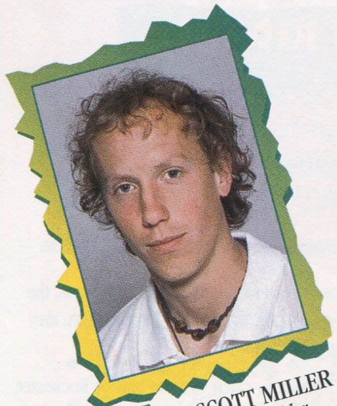
16 CHRIS KENNEL
Defender
Height: 6' 1" *Weight:* 175 lbs.
DOB: 8/7/69
Birthplace: Rochester, NY
Last Club: Rochester-A



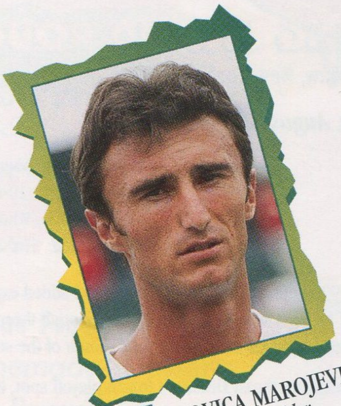
17 FUSEINI DAUDA
Defender
Height: 6' 2" *Weight:* 185 lbs.
DOB: 5/29/75
Birthplace: Ghana
Last Club: Rochester-A & Buffalo-NPSL



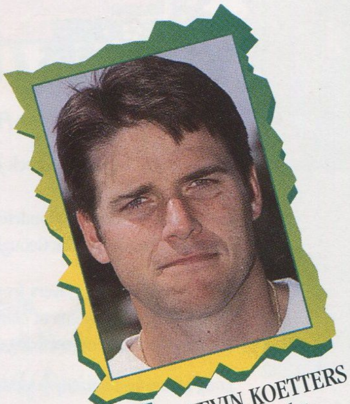
18 JIMMY GLENN
Forward
Height: 5' 11" *Weight:* 180 lb
DOB: 8/9/72
Birthplace: Monterey, CA
Last Club: Dallas-MLS & Baltimore-NPSL



25 SCOTT MILLER
Midfielder
Height: 5' 11" *Weight:* 165 lbs.
DOB: 11/27/73
Birthplace: Springfield, MA
Last Club: Alfred University



26 NOVICA MAROJEVIC
Midfielder
Height: 5' 10" *Weight:* 165 lbs.
DOB: 4/11/73
Birthplace: Yugoslavia
Last Club: Kansas City-NPSL & Suteska-Yugo. Div. I

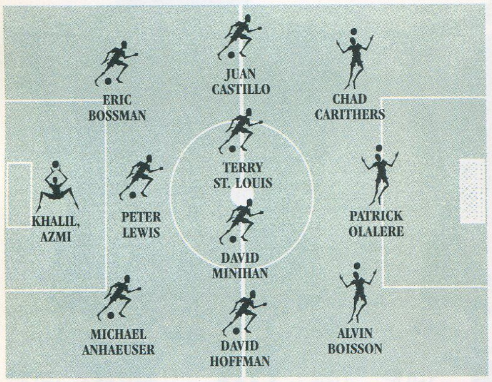


27 KEVIN KOETTERS
Defender
Height: 6' 0" *Weight:* 180 lbs.
DOB: 9/11/68
Birthplace: Quincy, IL
Last Club: Kansas City-MLS

Rochester Raging RHINOS

MORE COMPETITION

coming to town...



CHARLESTON BATTERY

Charleston, South Carolina

Friday, August 15 -7:35 p.m.

Owner/President: multi-person investment group
Chairman: J. Miles Barkley
General Manager/Coach: Nuno Piteira
Assitant Coach: Edward Khouri

A-League member since: 1993
1996 Record: 18-9 overall
Colors: Black, Gold, Red
Home Field: Stoney Field - capacity: 7,000

The 1997 season for the Charleston Battery has been one of numerous ups and downs. They began the season with three straight wins and then proceeded to drop eight consecutive games, scoring one or fewer golas six times. They have righted themselves as of late and charge into August with a 4-1 mark in their last five contests.

Their recent charge has brought them back into playoff contention, pulling them within one point of fourth place Raleigh wtih three games in hand. One of the Battery's biggest problems is a dismal road record. Through the first four months of the season, Charleston had won only two of eight road games.

The addition of F Patrick Olalere has helped the offense out considerably; he has scored five goals in eleven games for the Battery. Teammate Chad Carithers leads the club in assists and points. With the help of coach Nuno Piteira, the Battery plan on making some noise down the stretch.

*Did You Know...*During the 1996 playoffs, the Battery became the first team ever promoted from one USISL league to another-albeit only for the playoffs. Charleston won the Pro-League title and was promoted to the Select Six National Championship Tournament as an at-large team.

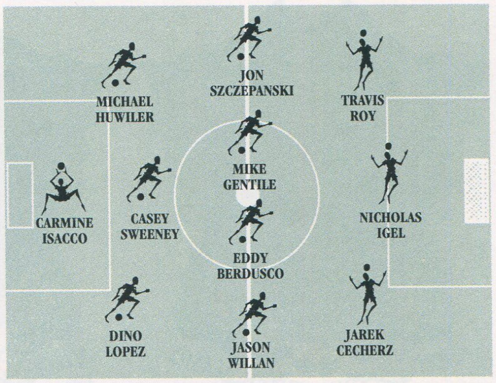
MILWAUKEE RAMPAGE

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Sunday, August 17 - 7:05 p.m.

Owners: Dan Doucette, Jim Hock, Nick Schimpf
President: Dan Doucette
Head Coach: Bob Gansler
Assitant Coach: Jon Szczepanski

A-League member since: 1994
1996 Record: 20-7 overall
Colors: White, Black, Green
Home Field: Uihlein Soccer Park - capacity: 5,000

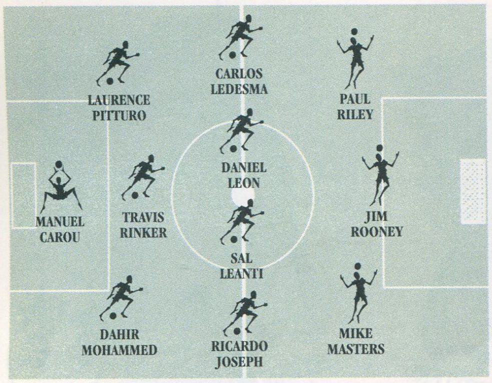


As the July schedule ends, the Rampage are on the outside of the playoffs looking in but could make a strong run with a few wins. Their 16 games played as of July 21 leaves them 12 contests to catch Minnesota and possibly Nashville and/or Orlando.

The addition of Eddy Berdusco has helped jumpstart the Rampage offense; Berdusco has scored three goals in four games with Milwaukee. Offense was something the Rampage desperately needed, having scored the second fewest goals in the league.

Milwaukee's sub-.500 mark this season is somewhat of a surprise considering they had posted a 52-10 record over the past three seasons.

*Did You Know...*Milwaukee Head Coach Bob Gansler was the U.S. National Team Coach from 1989 - 1991; he has also played on the U.S. National Team (1968-69) and the U.S. Olympic Team (1964 and 1968).



LONG ISLAND ROUGH RIDERS

Plainview, New York

Friday, August 29 -6:05 p.m.

Owners: Louis Ederer, Chuck Jacob
President: Louis Ederer
Head Coach: Alfonso Mondelo
Assitant Coach: Jim McGeough

A-League member since: 1994
1996 Record: 19-8 overall, 11-7 in Select League
Colors: Blue, White, Red
Home Field: Hofstra Stadium - Uniondale, NY - capacity: 15,000

Having returned 13 players from its 1996 national semifinalist roster and added experienced pros and collegiate All-Americans, the Rough Riders had plans of competing for an A-League Title in 1997. Although those plans aren't out of the realm of possibility, they are concentrating on securing an A-League playoff birth as the final month of the season approaches.

Long Island has a pretty good hold on the Northeast Division's fourth playoff spot, but are looking to catch Toronto and/or Rochester, thus avoiding a first round playoff match-up with Montreal.

A-League All-Star D Travis Rinker leads a back line that has allowed just over a goal/game. GK Manuel Carou is among the GAA leaders in the league and has posted five shutouts in his first 19 games.

Of Long Island's last nine games, six are against Division foes Montreal (3), Toronto (1) and Rochester (2). The Rough Riders/Rhinos match marks the final contest for both teams and could very well dictate who plays who in the playoffs.

*Did You Know...*The Rough Riders won the 1995 USISL Pro League title, the USISL's first year as a pro league. GK Tony Meola and F Giovanni Savarese, both now members of the NY/NJ MetroStars of the MLS, were instrumental in Long Island's title run that season.

Rules of the Game

THE LINE-UP The official starting line-up must be submitted one hour before game time, with the starting 11 listed first and then the substitutes. Players include the goalkeeper, the defense (sweeper, stopper, backs, marking back), midfielders and forwards (wing, striker).

TIME The game is 90 minutes total, with two 45 minute halves, running time. After any scored goal the referee is to stop the time immediately and restart the time on the ensuing kick-off. If the regulation game time ends in a tie, one 15-minute, sudden-death overtime is played. If the game is still tied, a winner is determined by a shoot-out.

SHOOT-OUT To break a tie at the end of regulation play, each side takes five attempts in a one-on-one confrontation between a shooter and a goalkeeper. The shooter begins with the ball at the 35-yard line and the goalkeeper starts at his goal line. After the referee blows his whistle, the shooter has five seconds to score on the goalie. Unlike a penalty kick, a shooter may advance the ball forward before shooting and a goalkeeper can move off of his goal line. After five attempts if the result is still a tie, the shoot-out goes into sudden death. Meaning, that the next team to score and to stop their opponent from matching their goal wins.

SUBSTITUTIONS A team is allowed to substitute four field players and one goalkeeper during the game. Once a player has been substituted , he may not return to the game. If a player is injured and his team has used all four of their substitutions, he cannot be replaced with a substitute and the team must play a man down the rest of the game.

FOULS Each time a player is charged with a violation of the Laws of the Game, resulting in either a direct or indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team, he shall be charged with a foul. Cautions (yellow cards) and ejections (red cards) are recorded as fouls. At the referees discretion, he may elect not to call a foul if the receiving team has an advantage on the play.

DIRECT AND INDIRECT FREE KICKS A direct free kick is awarded for a foul such as pushing, holding, or tripping. An indirect free kick is awarded for infractions such as offsides, obstruction, and dangerous play. On a direct kick a player is allowed to score, however on an indirect kick the ball must be touched by another player before it crosses the goal line. A referee signals when a kick is indirect by raising his hand straight up until the ball makes contact with another player.

OFFSIDES Offsides occurs when a player without the ball is between the last defender and the opposition goal. The play is whistled dead when offsides occurs. Offsides is not considered a foul, but is a team statistic. Calling offsides is primarily the responsibility of the referees assistants (linesman). This call is subject to the referees discretion more than any other call in soccer.

SHOTS A shot is defined as any attempt which is ta clearly with the intent to score and is directed so th enters the goal; could have entered the goal if it had been prevented from doing so. A shot can be generate any body part other than the hand or arm. A cross centering pass is not a shot. A goalkeeper who intercep cross is not credited with a save.

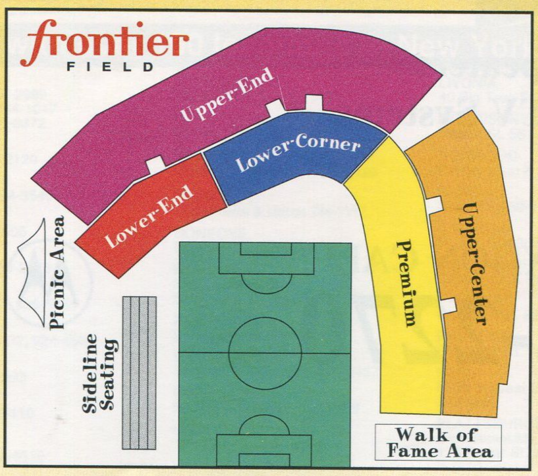
GOALS A goal is scored when the whole ball has pas over the whole of the goal line, between the goal posts under the crossbar, provided it has not been thro carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm, b player of the attacking team, except in the case of goalkeeper, who is in his own penalty area. When a pla propels the ball into his own team's goal, regardless of original intent (back pass, bad clearance), a goal awarded to the opposing team. The goal is not credite the individual, it is recorded as an "own goal". If a s from an attacking player is deflected or mishandled into goal by the goalkeeper or deflected by a defender, attacking player is awarded the goal.

ASSISTS The player whose pass leads directly to scoring of the goal shall be credited with an assist. If a is scored after a series of uninterrupted passes by attacking team, the next-to-last pass is an assist. Only assist shall be awarded per goal scored.

Rochester Raging Rhinos

1997 RHINOS GROUP SALES

LOCATION	WINDOW PRICE	20-99	100+	500+
PREMIUM	$15.00	$14.00	$13.00	—
UPPER CENTER	12.00	11.00	10.00	—
LOWER END	12.00	11.00	10.00	9.00
SIDELINE SEATING	12.00	11.00	10.00	9.00
UPPER END	10.00	9.00	8.00	7.00
LOWER CORNER	8.00	7.00	6.00	5.00



GROUP BENEFITS

- Savings of up to 37% on your Rhinos gan ticket.
- A welcome to your group over the system and video scoreboard.
- No waiting in line for tickets.
- Posters to promote your night with th Rhinos.
- A special gift for the group leader.
- A great night under the stars with frienc

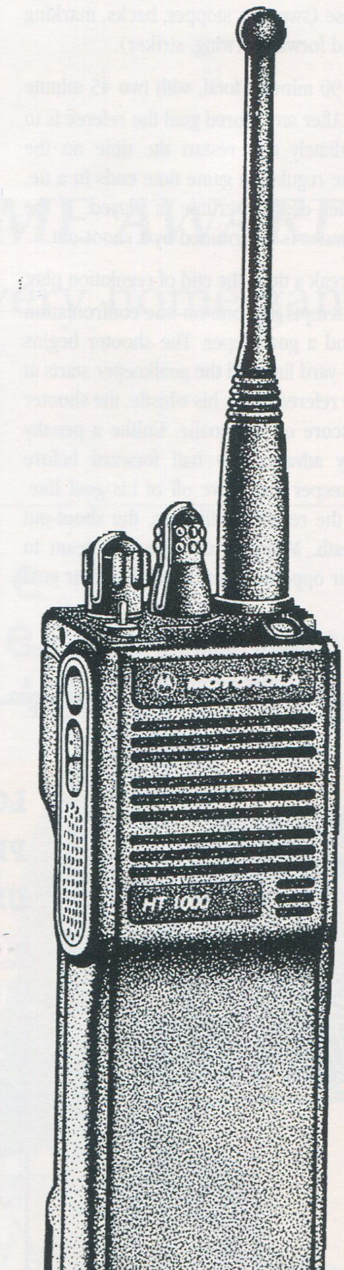
DiLorenzo Electronics, Inc.

3259 SOUTH WINTON ROAD, ROCHESTER, NY 14623

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OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- **System Design**
- **Custom Installation**
- **Field and In-House Service**
- **Radio Rental**
- **FCC Licensing**

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- **Base Stations**
- **Community Repeaters**
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- **Paging Systems**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

(716) 427-2270

MOTOROLA

Authorized Two-Way Radio Dealer

For Your Information...

Rhino fan guide to your soccer game night enjoyment

ACCESS: Frontier Field is easily accessible from route I-490; Exit from east or west bound I-490 onto Plymouth Avenue. The Main Gate and Ticket Office is located along Morrie Silver Way.

ATM: An Automated Teller Machine is available for use at Frontier Field.

CAMERAS: Fans may bring cameras or camcorders into Frontier Field for their personal use. However, we ask that you do not block anyone else's view of the game, or use flash attachments at any time.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCES: The Rhinos welcome the opportunity to speak to your group. The Rhinos Community Relations Department schedules appearances by players, members of the front office and the team mascot. Contact the Rhinos Community Relations Department for more information.

CONTAINER POLICY/ALCOHOL: Containers with food and/or beverages may not be brought into Frontier Field. Food and Drinks are sold throughout the Stadium for your enjoyment.

EMERGENCY PHONE CALLS: Guest Services is available as a service to fans expecting emergency phone calls. Fans may leave their seat locations with Guest Services and they will be then contacted with the message. Due to the many requests, public address, medical emergency, or video board paging is not permitted.

FAN BEHAVIOR: Our code of behavior is simple - we would like you to enjoy the game in a manner that permits other fans around you to do the same. If your enjoyment is curtailed by rude behavior of fans near you, please report the problem to ushers or security personnel. If you are unsatisfied with the handling of a particular situation, we want to hear from you. Please call or write our offices, Rochester Raging Rhinos, 333 N. Plymouth Ave., Rochester, N. Y. 14608. The phone number is (716) 454-KICK.

FIRST AID: For those requiring medical assistance for any reason, contact your section's usher or security personnel and they will escort you to the Frontier Field first aid station.

GAME TIMES: All Rhino home games will begin at 7:35 p.m., except Sunday games, which begin at 6:05 p.m. Check with the Frontier Field ticket window for exhibition/playoff game times. The gates to Frontier Field open one hour before game time. Both teams have a 20 minute warm-up session about 40 minutes before each game.

GROUP TICKETS: The Rhinos have special discounts available for group and multi-game purchases. Contact the Rhinos Group Sales Department at (716) 454-KICK.

GUEST SERVICES: Guest Services is available to all patrons of Frontier Field, it is located on the Main Concourse near the Main Gates. The Guest Services Booth operates from the time the Stadium opens until after the game ends. Fans may obtain information and assistance, offer suggestions or register complaints at the Guest Services Booth.

HANDICAPPED SEATING: Handicapped seating is available at Frontier Field. Please contact either Frontier Field Ticket Office or the Rhinos Office for information and assistance.

LOST AND FOUND: Contact the security person near your section and they will escort you to the Frontier Field Offices.

MAILING ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS: The Rhino Offices are located on site at Frontier Field at 333 North Plymouth Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14608. Our phone number is (716) 454-KICK, and our fax number is (716) 454-5453. Fan mail for individual players and coaches should be sent to them directly at that address.

PETS: Pets are not allowed at Frontier Field. Guide dogs and seeing eye dogs are the exception, they are allowed in Frontier Field.

RADIO COVERAGE: WBBF (AM-950) is the flagship station of the Rhinos Radio Network, which covers all home and away games. WBER (FM-90.5) will also carry all of the Rhinos games this season. Don Stevens will be the play-by-play broadcaster, with Don Lalka providing the color commentary for all home games.

RESTROOMS: Restrooms are located on all levels of the Stadium. Diaper changing areas are available in both the men's and women's rooms. A family (Unisex) restroom is available in the Main Concourse.

SMOKING: Smoking is only permitted in the designated areas along the Main Concourse.

SPECIAL SERVICES: Frontier Field provides many services and amenities to accommodate the needs of guests with disabilities. Information may be obtained at Guest Services.

SOUVENIRS: Various merchandise items, including hats, t-shirts, golf shirts, sweatshirts and other Rhino gifts can be purchased at souvenir stands around Frontier Field or at the Rhinos Team Store. The Rhinos Team Store is located in the historic firehouse near the Walk of Fame. In addition, souvenir items can be purchased at the Rhino Business Offices during regular business hours. The Rhinos also have a merchandise brochure outlining items that can be purchased through the mail. Write or call the Rhinos Office for one.

TELEPHONES: Pay telephones are located on all levels throughout the Stadium. Two TTY telephones are also available on the Main Concourse level.

TELEVISION: Three of the Rhinos 28 regular season games will be televised live on The Prime Network, which is carried by The Empire Sports Network in the Rochester area. The Prime Network will carry an A-League Game of the Week. Most games will be carried live by the Empire Sports Network, with some games taped delayed.

TICKETS: Rhinos fans may purchase single-game tickets at the Frontier Field Ticket Window or by calling 423-9464.

Tickets at Frontier Field are: $15.00 (Premium)
$12.00 (Upper-Center & Lower End)
$12.00 (Sideline)
$10.00 (Upper End)
$8.00 (Upper Corner)

Senior citizens tickets may be purchased at a $2.00 discount for any regular season home game. Group tickets may be purchased by calling the Rhinos Office at (716) 454-KICK.

TOURS: Frontier Field tours are conducted throughout the season. Fans get a chance to view different areas of the Stadium, the clubhouse, press box and the owner's suite. Fans will also receive information on the construction and the amenities of Frontier Field. Special group tours are also available. Please call (716) 262-2009.

WALK OF FAME: The Frontier Field Walk of Fame is a tribute to fans, players and media throughout Rochester's sports history. It is comprised of panels, each displaying a member of Rochester Sports Walk of Fame, surrounded by bricks with names of fans and businesses who support Rochester's rich tradition of sports history. Bricks can be purchased at the cost of $100.00 per brick, if interested in getting your name on a brick in the Walk of Fame call (716) 777-9642.

THE Rage

Mishi Allen
Jennifer Altieri
Robin Babin
Gina Carrozziere
Marni Carsley
Tina DeMar
Michelle Grella
Lisa Ientilucci
Stefanie Kenney
Sue Nobes
Jennifer Obi
Kari Palandro
Missy Rappleye
Christine Rizzo
Danika Roj
Lindsay Rowe
Christine Vania



Rochester's only professional sports dance team, the Rhinos RAGE are back for another season of entertaining soccer fans before games and at halftime with their high energy, fast-paced dance routines.

The RAGE are Ambassadors for the Rhinos, attending many Rochester area charitable and promotional events, as well as greeting Rhinos fans at all home games.



Lisa Giarratano

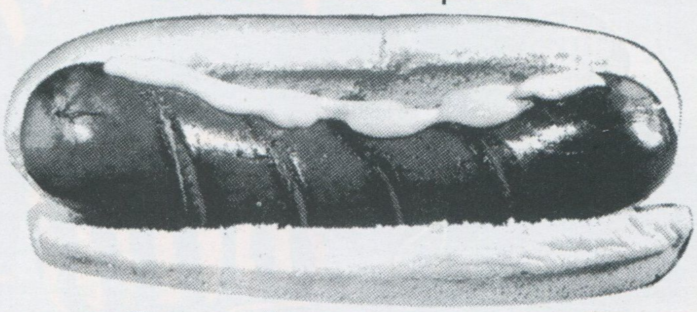
Choreographer, Rhinos RAGE

A Rochester native, Ms. Giarratano has owned and operated the Little Red Dancing School for the past 15 years, and has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 1994 Frank Hatchett Award for Outstanding Choreography and Dedication to the Arts.

She is a Master Teacher in both the United States and Canada, and is known for her creative and innovative approach to the art of dance choreography.

Ms. Giarratano has choreographed the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Aloha and Pro Bowl football halftime shows.


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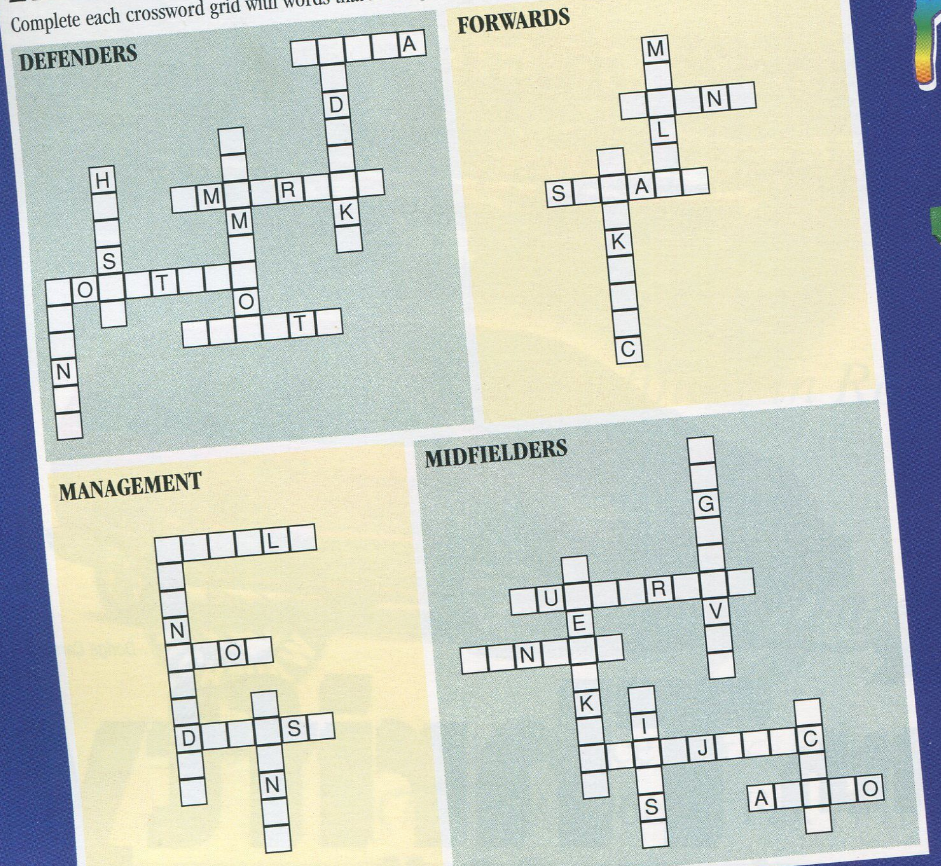
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RHINOS FILL-INS

Complete each crossword grid with words that fit the given category.





A-LEAGUE NAME SEARCH

E	G	S	R	S	T	O	I	R	T	A	P	F	K
S	A	P	O	S	O	R	L	P	B	S	L	O	I
U	M	U	U	W	J	A	G	U	A	R	S	Z	C
N	B	X	G	O	L	M	8	E	T	E	8	O	K
D	L	W	H	L	Y	P	C	6	T	R	6	D	E
O	E	I	R	V	N	A	A	T	E	A	E	I	R
G	R	L	I	E	X	G	T	D	R	R	S	A	S
S	S	D	D	S	O	E	S	Y	Y	P	S	C	O
R	I	C	E	T	R	H	I	N	O	S	R	F	U
H	M	A	R	G	A	P	M	A	R	E	U	L	N
I	P	T	S	T	C	A	P	M	I	X	C	Y	D
N	A	S	O	R	T	E	M	O	T	O	K	E	E
O	C	C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	S	F	U	R	R
R	E	D	N	U	H	T	F	O	X	E	S	S	S
E	T	U	W	I	L	D	F	I	R	E	S	6	8

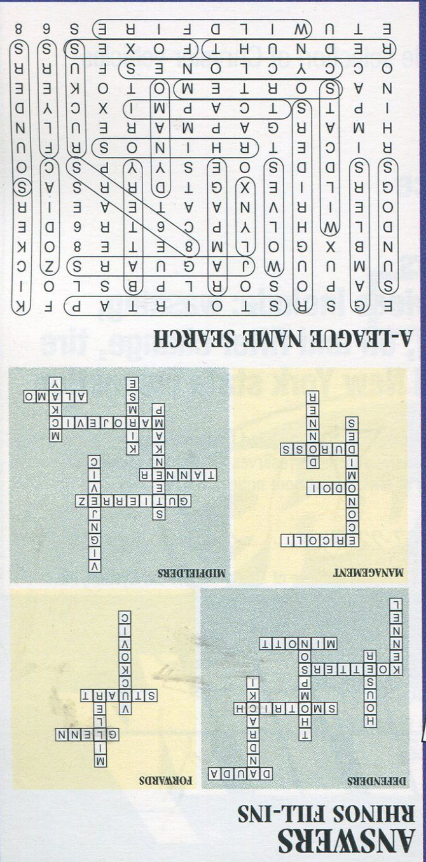
JAGUARS
86ERS
GAMBLERS
RHINOS
WILDCATS

FOXES
RUCKUS
SUNDOGS
LYNX
CYCLONES

PATRIOTS
RAMPAGE
WOLVES
WILDFIRE
FLYERS

ZODIAC
THUNDER
ROUGH RIDERS
DYNAMO
KICKERS

SOUNDERS
METROS
IMPACT
BATTERY



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RHINOS TRIVIA

1. The Rhinos only playoff victories are over this team. ____________
2. Rochester defeated what team for their first regular season win? ____________
3. Who did the Rhinos defeat in their first US Open Cup game? ____________
4. What player was the first signed by the Rochester Rhinos? ____________
5. Name the Rhino who led the team in goals and points last season. ____________
6. This Rhino joined the team on two different occasions last season. ____________
7. What MLS teams did Rochester defeat en route to the US Open Cup Title Game? ____________
8. Who scored Rochester's first ever playoff goals? ____________

Rochester Raging RHINOS

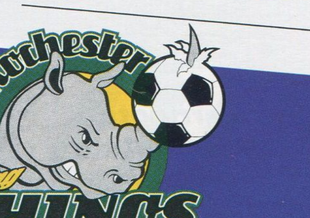
SOCCER JUMBLE

Unscramble these eight jumbles, one letter to each square, to form eight soccer terms. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer.

EREF KCIK
FEREERE
LHAF MEIT
LOGA NIEL
VEENLE
LATYENP RAAE
DRE RADC
SUCTBONIORT

The Rhinos Captain

______ __________



ANSWERS

RHINOS TRIVIA

1. Montreal
2. Vancouver
3. Fort Myers
4. Yogi McKay
5. Doug Miller
6. Gustavo Villagra
7. Tampa Bay, Colorado
8. Lenin Steenkamp

SOCCER JUMBLE

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REFEREE
HALF TIME
GOAL LINE
ELEVEN
PENALTY AREA
RED CARD
OBSTRUCTION

The Rhinos Captain
LENIN STEENKAMP


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A LEAGUE Final Standings

1996 Standings & Statistics

TEAM	GP	W	L	SW	GF	GA	Pts
Montreal Impact	27	17	6	4	40	18	55 # *
Colorado Foxes	27	14	11	2	55	13	44 *
Seattle Sounders	27	12	11	4	25	25	40 *
ROCHESTER RHINOS	27	11	13	3	44	42	36 *
Vancouver 86'ers	27	10	14	3	38	38	33
New York Fever	27	6	18	3	30	40	21
Atlanta Ruckus	22	3	19	0	14	60	9

Note: Teams earn 3 points for a regulation win and 1 point for a Shootout Win.
Regular Season Champions
** Clinched Playoff Spot*

GOALKEEPERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GP/GS	MIN	SVS	GA	SO	GAA	W-L	SW
Paolo Ceccarelli	MON	26/26	2340	166	17	13	0.65	17.5	4
Marcus Hahnemann	SEA	27/27	2378	120	24	11	0.91	12-11	4
Trey Harrington	COL	27/27	2422	116	33	10	1.23	14-11	2
Paul Dolan	VAN	24/24	2119	132	30	7	1.27	9-13	2
Khalil Azmi	NY	8/8	720	54	11	2	1.38	1-6	1
BILL ANDRACKI	**ROC**	**27/27**	**2410**	**121**	**40**	**7**	**1.49**	**11-13**	**3**
Dave Barrueta	ATL	4/4	360	18	6	0	1.50	0-4	0
Peter Zaratin	NY	19/19	1710	75	29	3	1.53	5-12	2
Mun Young Yi	ATL	10/10	900	50	22	3	2.20	3-7	0
Zachery Shaw	ATL	3/3	270	14	11	0	3.67	0-3	0
Yaro Dachnewsky		4/4	360	18	18	0	4.50	0-4	0

LEADING SCORERS

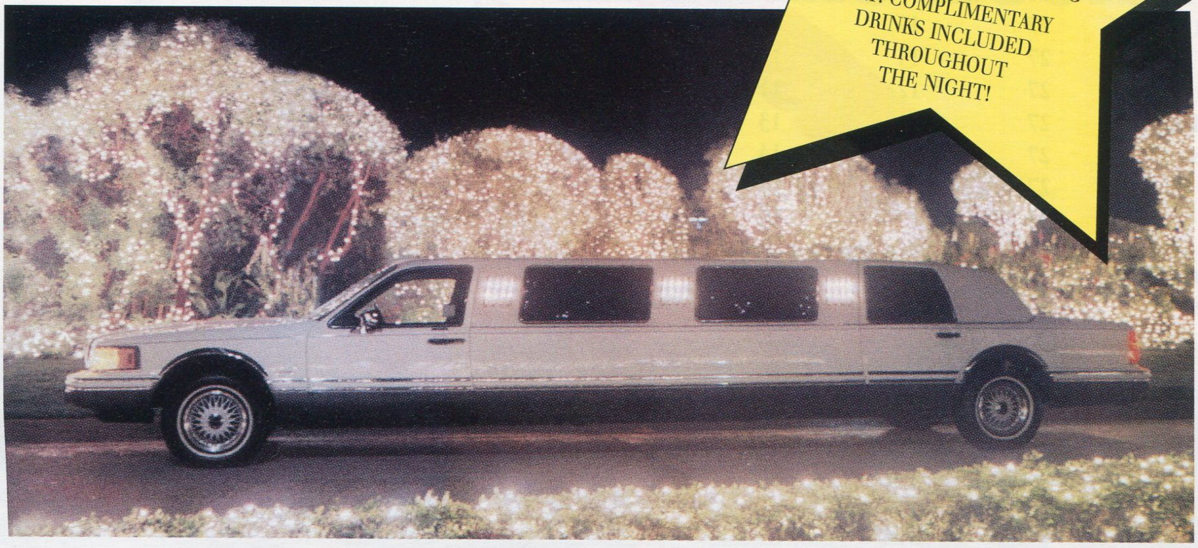
PLAYER	TEAM	GOALS	ASSISTS	POINTS
Wolde Harris	COL	17	8	42
DOUG MILLER	**ROC**	**18**	**2**	**38**
Domenic Mobilio	VAN	14	4	32
LENIN STEENKAMP	**ROC**	**9**	**5**	**23**
Carsten Siersbaek	COL	7	8	22
Eddy Berdusco	MON	8	3	19
Lloyd Barker	MON	6	7	19
Jason Farrell	SEA	6	5	17
Mauro Bielo	MON	6	3	15
Walter Boyd	COL	5	5	15
Anthony McCreath	COL	5	5	15
HECTOR MARINARO	**ROC**	**4**	**7**	**15**
Chance Fry	SEA	6	2	14
Jorge Acosta	NY	5	4	14
Joey Leonetti	SEA	6	2	14

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- ★ Weddings
- ★ Mini-vacation Packages
- ★ Concerts

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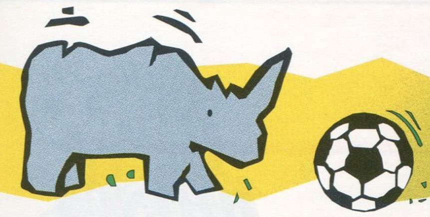
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1996 A-League Playoff Results

SEMIFINALS
Best-of-three series between Montreal and Rochester

Rochester Rhinos 3, Montreal Impact 2, at Montreal, September 19

Montreal Impact 3, Rochester Rhinos 0, at Rochester, NY, September 21

Rochester Rhinos 2, Montreal Impact 1, at Montreal, September 25

(Rochester wins series two games to one and advances to A-League Championship Game)

SEMIFINALS
Best-of-three series between Colorado and Seattle

Seattle Sounders 1, Colorado Foxes 0, at Commerce City, Colorado, September 19

Colorado Foxes 2, Seattle Sounders 0, at Seattle, September 22

Seattle Sounders 3, Colorado Foxes 0, at Commerce City, Colorado, Spetember 25

(Seattle wins series two games to one and advances to A-League Championship Game)

A-LEAGUE CHAMPIONHIP GAME
Seattle, October 6

Seattle Sounders 2, Rochester Rhinos 0

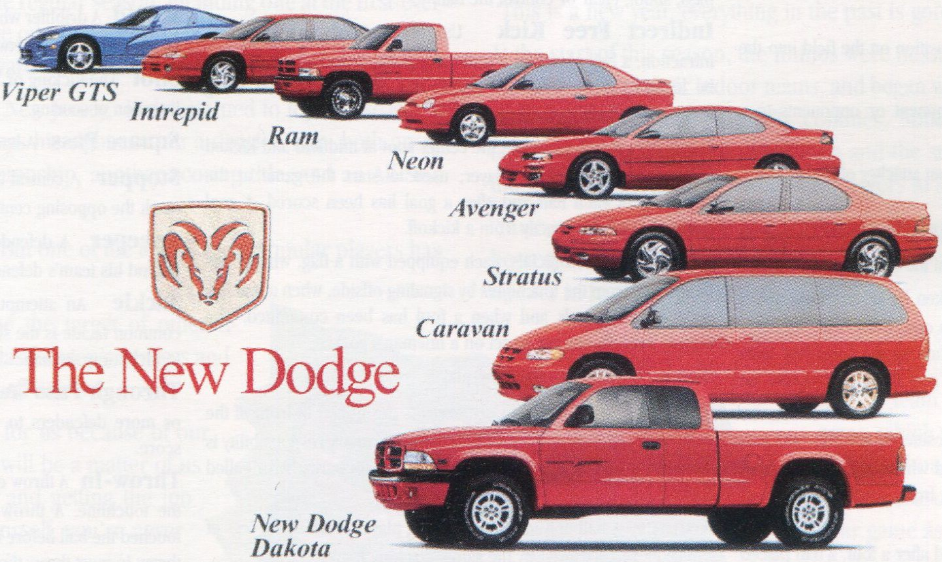
(Seattle wins 1996 A-League Championship)



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Glossary of Terms

Advantage Clause Applied by the referee when, in his opinion, calling a foul would give an advantage to the offending team. No foul is called and the referee signals "play on."

Caution A disciplinary action taken by the referee against a player (or others) for persistent misconduct, dissent, ungentlemanly conduct or entering the field without permission. The offender is shown a yellow card; a second offense brings a red card and the player is sent off.

Center A ball passed from a wide position on the field into the penalty area. Also called a "cross."

Chip Pass lofted high over an opponent or opponents to a teammate.

Charge Use of the shoulder to force an attacker off-balance and gain possession of the ball.

Clearance A ball thrown (by the goalkeeper), kicked or headed by the defending team away from the its own penalty area.

Corner Kick Direct free kick taken by an attacking player from the corner of the defending teams end of the field. A corner kick is awarded if a ball was last touched by the defending team before going over the defending team's goal line (but not into the goal).

Defender Player who ordinarily is positioned near his own goal behind the midfielders and forwards and whose primary responsibility is the prevention of the opponent from scoring. Also called "fullback".

Direct Free Kick Usually awarded after a foul, a ball placed in a stationary position and which may be kicked directly into the opposition's goal without first being touched by another attacker. Corner kicks and penalty kicks are also direct free kicks.

Dribble Action of a player who advances the ball with a series of short taps with the feet.

Drop Ball Ball dropped by the referee between two opposing players to restart a game after a play has been stopped for a no penalty situation.

Ejection A disciplinary action taken by a referee against a player (or others) for violent conduct and/or serious foul play, foul or abusive language, or persistent misconduct after receiving a caution (yellow card). The offender is shown a red card and sent off the field. He may not be replaced by another player.

First-Time Pass Ball passed without the player first stopping it. Also called "one touch."

Forward Player who ordinarily is positioned ahead of the midfielders and whose primary responsibility is to create and score goals. An inside forward is called a "striker."

Goalkeeper Player who is positioned in his goalmouth and whose primary responsibility is the prevention of goals by the opposition. The goalkeeper may use his hands while he is in his own penalty area, and his uniform must contrast with those of the field players on both teams.

Goal Kick Indirect free kick taken by a defending player from the defending team's goal area. A goal kick is awarded when a ball was last touched by the attacking team before going over the defending team's goal line (but not into the goal).

Half-Volley Kick taken just as the ball bounces off the ground.

Hand Ball A ball touched illegally by a player's hand or arm.

Heading Use of the head; usually the forehead at the hairline to pass, shoot, clear or control the ball.

Indirect Free Kick Usually awarded after a minor infraction, a ball placed in a stationary position and which may not be kicked directly into the opposition's goal without first being touched by another attacker.

Kickoff A ball placed in the center spot at midfield and kicked forward by an attacking player; used to start the game at the beginning of each half and after a goal has been scored. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kickoff.

Lineman Two officials, each equipped with a flag, who assists the referee from the touchlines by signaling offside, when a ball has gone out of bounds and when a foul has been committed. The referee may choose not to act on a lineman's goal.

Mark Guarding an attacking player.

Midfielder Player who ordinarily is positioned in front of the defenders and behind the forwards, whose primary responsibility is to create a link between the defenders and forwards. Also called "halfback."

Nutmeg A ball played by an attacking player between the legs of a marker and retrieved by the same attacking player.

Obstruction Action of a player who impedes an opponent by standing in or moving into his path without attempting to play the ball.

Offside Position of an attacking player if he is between his opponent's goal line and the ball when the ball is played unless he is on his own half of the field or two opponents are no farther from the goal line than is the attacking player. A player cannot be offside if he receives the ball directly from a corner kick, goal kick, throw-in or drop the ball situation.

Offside Trap Maneuver by a defense whereby the defenders move toward the opposing team's goal during an attack by the opposition to catch at least one attacker in an offside position.

Overlap An attacking run by a defender that carries him past his own midfielders.

Penalty Kick Direct free kick from the penalty spot after a major foul has been committed by the defending team in its own penalty area. The opposing goalkeeper must remain stationary on his goal line between the goal posts and all other players must be outside the penalty area and the able is kicked by an attacking player.

Overtime and Penalty-Kick Tiebreaker A feature of the A-League that comes into play when a match is tied after 90 minutes of regulation time. Two extra periods of 7 minutes each are played; the match ends when a goal is scored. If no goal is scored, a penalty-kick tie-breaker is held. Each team takes five penalty kicks on an alternating basis. If the teams remain tied, the teams alternate penalty kicks until one team scores and the other fails to score.

Referee The official in charge of the match. Primary responsibilities are to protect the players and serve as official timekeeper.

Save A ball caught, deflected, or otherwise prevented by the goalkeeper from going into the goal.

Shield A dribbler who prevents an opponent from taking the ball by keeping himself between an opponent and the ball.

Shot The kicking or heading of the ball toward the goal with the intention of scoring.

Square Pass A lateral pass.

Stopper A central defender whose primary responsibility is to mark the opposing center forward or striker.

Sweeper A defender who is free to roam in front of and/or behind his team's defensive line.

Tackle An attempt to dispossess an attacker of the ball. A common tackle is the slide tackle, which involves a sliding attempt to kick away the ball.

Through Pass Pass that travels toward the goal between two or more defenders to a teammate, putting him in a position to score.

Throw-In A throw executed by an attacking player from outside the touchline. A throw-in is awarded against the team that last touched the ball before it crossed a touchline. The player taking the throw-in must throw the ball onto the field over his head using both hands; he must also keep both feet on the ground either outside or on the touchline.

Trap The use of the foot, thigh, chest, etc., by a player to bring a ball under control.

Volley Kick taken before a ball bounces on the ground.

Wall A line of three or more players positioned at least ten yards from the ball; used to help defend against a free kick.

Wall Pass Pass in which an attacker sends the ball to a teammate (the "wall") who immediately plays the ball back to the attacker who has to run to an open space. Also called "give and go" or "one-two."

Wing Area of the field near the touchlines.

Winger An outside forward. Outside defenders are sometimes called "wingbacks."

4-4-2 A team formation that has four defenders, three midfielders, and three forwards.

Rhinos Play-Maker . . . Tommy Tanner

BY ANDREW QUIRK

In the two year existence of the Rochester Rhinos, no player has assumed the role of the passer better then the player who wears the # 8 sweater, Thomas Joseph Tanner. More commonly known as Tommy to the fans, the Syracuse native has found a permanent home in the Rhinos midfield.

In a game that often puts to much emphasis on the goal and the scorer, Tommy is content with his role as the aggressive, passing midfielder.



Photo by James Lathrop

Tommy hasn't always played the role of the passer, as is evident by his goal scoring exploits as a two-time Parade Magazine All-American at Syracuse Henninger High School. As a forward in high school, Tommy was also selected to the All-New York State team three times and had no problems attracting Division I college coaches. He attended North Carolina State, where he continued to put the ball in the back of the net, which twice placed him on the All-Atlantic Coast Conference team. In his senior year, Tommy led the Wolfpack (with fellow Rhino teammate Henry Gutierrez and MLS star Roy Lassiter) to an NCAA Final Four appearance and was named the team most valuable player for the season.

So how did Tommy adjust from being a prolific scorer in high school and college to a passer in the professional ranks? Tanner explains, "I scored quite a bit as a forward in high school and college, but I always played like a midfielder. When I started playing pro indoors in Cleveland, I was on the same team as Zoran Karic and Hector Marinaro (two of the best indoor players ever) so I had no choice but to become a passer and became quite accustomed to it." Tommy obviously made a successful transition from the scorer to the assist man, and the league agreed by naming him the 1991-92 MISL Rookie-of-the-Year.

Once Tommy settled in as a passer in the indoor game, his role as the set-up man carried over to his outdoor professional career with the Rhinos. After five seasons of playing indoor soccer, Tommy admits it took him quite a while to get reacquainted with the outdoor game again. "The transition was harder then I thought it would be, I hadn't played outdoor since college, which was a five year layoff. It took me at least two months to adjust to the natural grass and to feel comfortable again outdoors." Don't let Tommy fool you, regardless of how long he thinks it took him to get comfortable, the modest midfielder was still able to tally enough assists (6) to finish second on the team, only one behind the team leader Hector Marinaro.

"This year it was much easier to adjust and I felt comfortable within my first few outdoor games of the season." Tommy does point out however, that different passes are needed in the indoor and outdoor games. "The indoor game demands short quick passes to the feet, while in the outdoor game I am able to play more lofted balls, as well as balls into space so that our forwards, like Doug Miller and Jimmy Glenn can run on to them."

Passing is one part of Tommy's game that he takes pride in. Playing soccer in the United States where a player is awarded two points for a goal and only one for an assist often deters players from passing, but this has no effect on Tommy. "I love to pass, it's such a great feeling when a teammate scores on one of my passes." Tommy also addresses the points system, "There is too much emphasis put on the goal, which is evident by two points being awarded to the scorer; I think the guy who passes the ball and gets the assist should get the same recognition as the goal scorer."

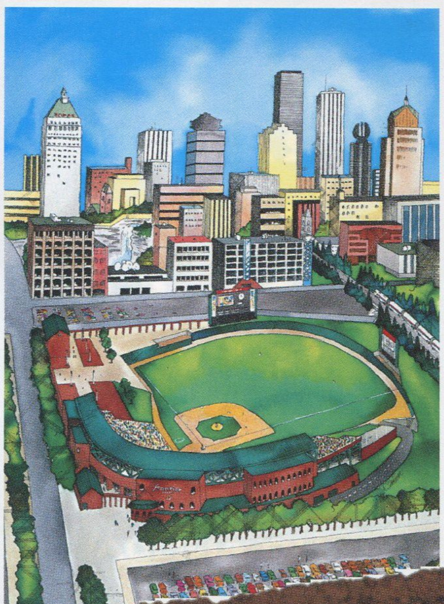
Assists are one statistic that can often be overlooked by statisticians, and every city has their own idea on crediting a player for an assist. This season, the league has added the double assist to be credited to the player who makes the second pass preceding the goal,awarded at the discretion of the statistician. With this addition, the statistics have become somewhat skewed in the assists category as certain teams give the double assist to every goal, while other teams never even think to recognize the double assist.

Tommy doesn't get caught up in worrying about statistics and he definitely doesn't let it affect his play on the field. "My only responsibility is to play the ball, sometimes I can make a perfect pass and we end up with no result at all. The pass or the potential of an assist, is only as good as the player finishing it."

So how long can the Rhinos fans expect to see Tommy Tanner playing midfield in Frontier Field? According to Tommy, "As long as the Rhinos are in Rochester and I am still able to play; I'll always want to be a part of this team and city. This is a perfect situation for me, being able to play in the summer so close to home."

"I had no desire to play outdoor until professional soccer came back to Rochester. There were no teams in the Eastern area (the closest team was in Atlanta). I was content in the summer running and working at soccer camps." Rhinos fans should feel lucky not only to have professional soccer back in town, but to be able to watch a player of Tommy's caliber.

As long as Rochester has a professional soccer team one thing is a sure bet - Tommy Tanner in the midfield creating for the forwards and continuing to tally up the assists.



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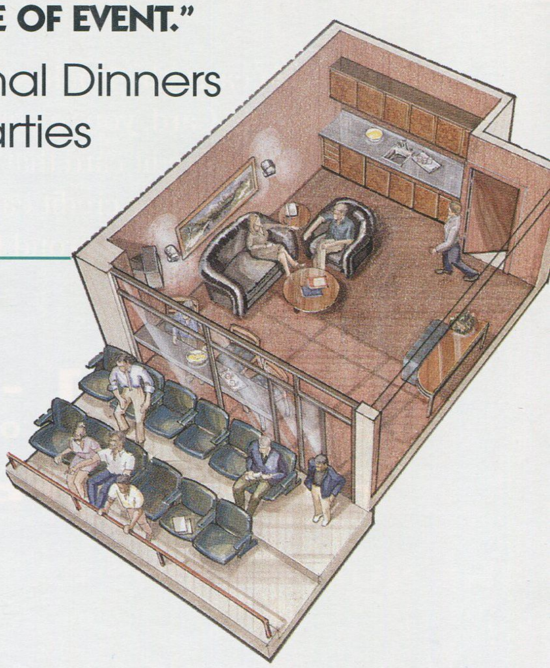
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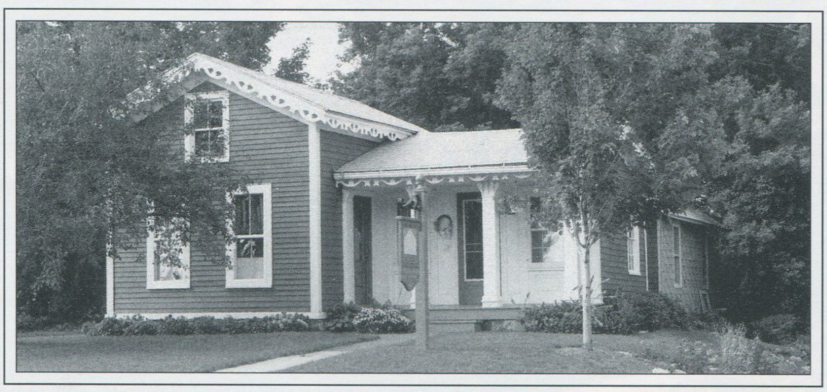
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The Rhino

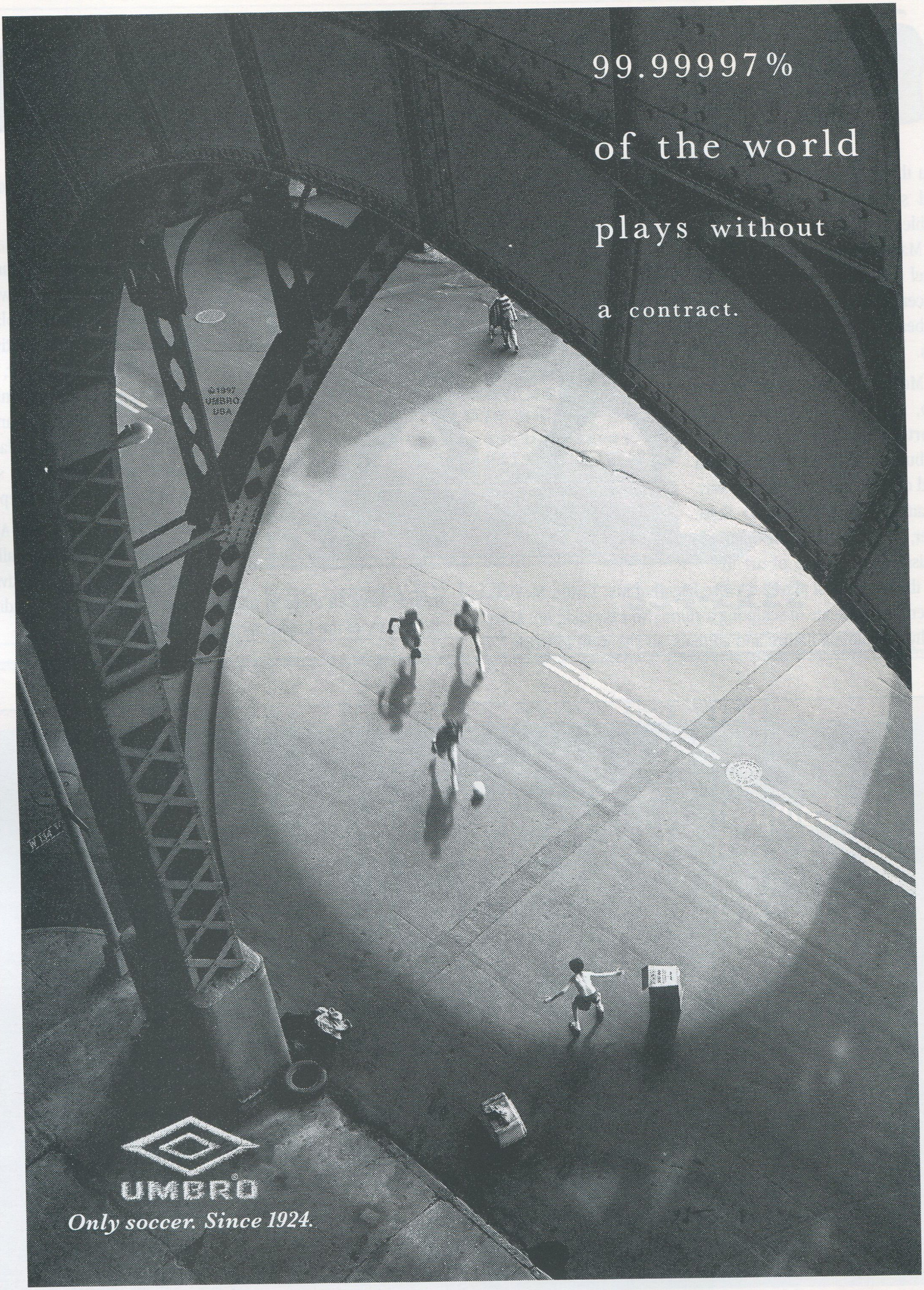
If you think "Raging Rhinos" is a unique nickname for a professional soccer team, check out the trophy for the club's most valuable player award. "The Rhino", a commissioned sculpture by artist Mary C. Taylor, is a distinctive piece of steel crafted to look like a charging rhinoceros. No doubt, it is one of the most beautiful and unusual trophies in all sports.



Chris McVicker, President of the Flanders Group, is one of the Rhinos' biggest supporters. McVicker wanted to contribute to the Rhinos success both on and off the field in a different way. In chatting with Rhinos CEO Steve Donner, McVicker had the idea of commissioning a piece of art to honor the team's best player. A close friend of Ms. Taylor, McVicker gave her the challenge of sculpting a rhino. No easy task, but Mary's specialty is sculpting nature and animals, so she went to work. The end result is an exquisite rendition of a charging rhino, full of power and grace.

"The Rhino", to be displayed at all home games and at the team's offices at Frontier Field, weighs approximately 50 pounds and was crafted by hand. A solid wooden base will hold the names of each most valuable player, as selected by his teammates. Rene Rivas, the Rhinos all-star mid-fielder, will be the first to have his name inscribed on the trophy, as he was the team's best player in their inaugural season last year. Each winner will receive a smaller rendition of the sculpture to keep.

The trophy was unveiled on April 5, 1997 at the Golden Lynx Gallery in Mendon. McVicker, Taylor, Rivas and friends were all there to marvel at the sculpture, a new tradition in the history of the Rochester Raging Rhinos.

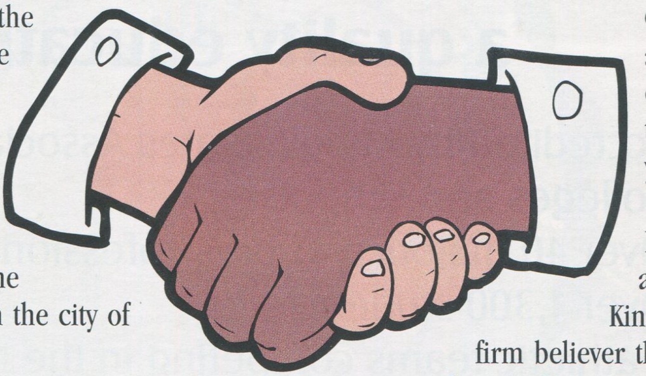

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Working Together

WDKX and the Rhinos are teaming up to make the game of soccer fun and exciting.

In conversation with Andrew A. Langston, founder and owner of radio station WDKX, talk invariably turns to his family, especially his granddaughter. The anecdotes pour out of Rochester's well-known businessman about the closeness of his family, including his wife, son, and now, granddaughter.

"Kids can make a difference today," said Langston. "They are more aware of what's going on in today's world than ever before. Kids are a wonderful resource, more creative and aware to what's happening. I'm concerned about the future of my granddaughter, the future of all children ten years down the road."



Which is why Langston and WDKX have teamed up with the Rochester Raging Rhinos and will work to make the game of soccer available to all kids in the city of Rochester.

"The Rhinos are important in the community," continued Langston. "It's important that the players not only share their soccer skills and talent with the kids, but also their priorities and philosophy on how to reach goals in life. Like our on-air talent at WDKX, the majority of the Rhinos players have graduated college. To go out into the Rochester community and share these experiences will make a difference."

WDKX and the Rhinos are involved in projects together to help kids in the community. "Coaches Corner" is a joint effort to bring charitable organizations to a Rhinos game by giving away 25 tickets per match. "It's a chance to bring entire families together to enjoy a game in a nice setting at Frontier Field," said Langston. "It keeps the kids off the street and exposes them to the sport of soccer and the players, who hopefully can show them that hard work and diligence points the way to success."

Other projects include clinic appearances by the Rhinos players in conjunction with WDKX, as well as tours of Frontier Field for groups of youths in the summer time.

Langston, who named the radio station after Frederick Douglas, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X - hence WDKX - is a firm believer that giving back to the community is a priority for all of his businesses, especially the radio station.

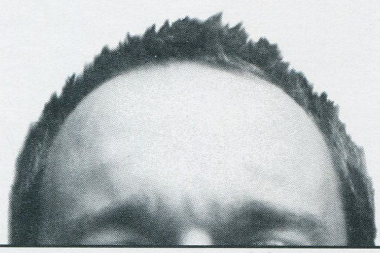
"I know the Rhinos are important in the community after only one season," chuckles Langston. "My phone rings off the hook a few days before every game by folks looking for tickets. I'm proud that the Rhinos organization wants to be in partnership with WDKX."

Gustavo Villagra



Photo by James Lathrop





Rhinos Kids Getting a 'Kick' Out of Camp

BY ROBERT M. McCLAINE

On the field it's important to win. Off the field, it's also important to win. The Rochester Rhinos are successfully accomplishing both.

After a successful inaugural season that saw the Rhinos advance to both the A-League championship game and the U.S. Open Cup final, the Rhinos organization's intention is to continue keeping Flower City soccer happy. The Rhinos are off to a fine start having held one of the top spots in the Northeast division through the month of July.

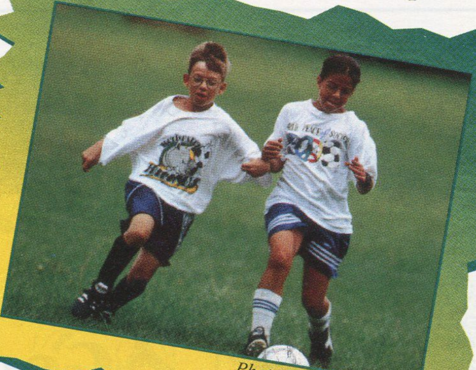


Photo by James Lathrop

As for off the field, the Rhinos take pride in serving the community, whether it is player appearances throughout the Rochester area or the hard work that is put into the ever-so-popular Rhinos Soccer School. That hard work pays off in loyal support; the Rhinos are averaging over 10,000 fans per game.

With over 26,00 kids playing youth soccer in Rochester, the Rhinos feel that serving the youngsters in the area is very important. These young fans are what will help pro soccer in Rochester succeed in the next century.

The Soccer Camp is in its second full summer, after a very successful first season where over 450 kids between the ages of 8 and 16 honed their skills. According to Camp Coordinator/Youth Programs Director Pat Grow, the summer of 1997 has been no different.

"With the popularity of soccer growing, especially here in Rochester, the camps have taken off. The Rhinos players are one of the best things that could happen to young soccer players in the area. They now have someone to look up to and say, 'I want to be a player just like Jimmy Glenn.'"

To maximize the opportunity for area youngsters to experience the finest in soccer coaching, the Rhinos conduct their school's at various locations around the Rochester area, including Greece, Ontario, Hilton, Marion, Irondequoit, and Pittsford. Of the $120 camper fee, the Rhinos donate $15 per player back to their respective house league or travel club as part of the Rhinos continuing commitment to youth development.

Camps are only as good as their instructors and the Rhinos Soccer School, no doubt, has some of the areas best. The Rhinos coaching staff, former Rochester Lancers, and other area college and High School coaches are among the staff that teach at the school.

"With the amount of camps out there, the deciding factor is usually instructors," remarks Grow. "We have made sure that ours are highly skilled people who not only know the game, but can break it down and teach it."

A typical day at the soccer school is filled with fun, hard work, and excitement.

"We go for five hours a day, and in that time, the campers move from coach to coach, learning a different technique and getting different philosophies on how the game," explains Grow. "They learn drills they can do at home and new games they can play with their regular team at practice."

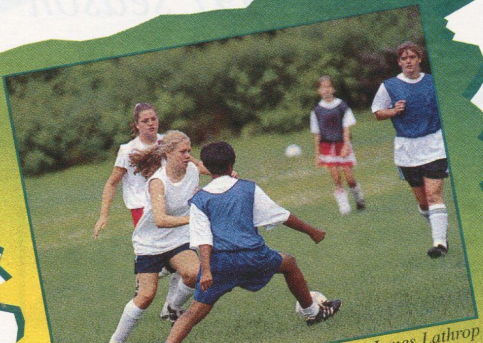


Photo by James Lathrop

The soccer tradition in Rochester started back in the late 1960's and continued throughout the 1970's with the Rochester Lancers. Now in the 1990's, the Rhinos organization is taking soccer into the next century. There is something very special happening on the banks of the Genesee River in a stadium called Frontier Field and the Rhinos are making sure everyone is able to enjoy it.


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